SPECIAL TOWN HALL SECTION • SMILING FACES

JULY/AUGUST

IVAN'S ISLAND ISLE OF PALMS DANIEL ISLAND

MAGAZINE

HAVE SOME CLASS
The Education Issue

Raining Cats, Dogs ... And Lizards? **Mount Pleasant Pets**

No Burning Bridges Joe Riley and Mount Pleasant's Mayors

Getting Their Feet Wet KIDS WHO SURF

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348 Bridgetown Pass, Belle Hall 5 beds, 4.5 baths, 3934 ft² | Offered at \$1,195,000

Stunning views are yours from almost every room in this exquisite home located in the well desired community of Hibben in Belle Hall. This gorgeous custom built marshfront home combines southern charm with modern top of the line amenities. Enjoy pond views from the front porch, or relax on the screened porch taking in the private scenery of the marsh. Listed by Jeff & Gina Foster 843.901.7622



2282 Captain Waring Court, Dunes West 6 beds, 4 full & 2 half baths, 6656 ft² | Offered at \$1,996,800





This beautiful 1.1 acre estate has everything the discerning buyer is looking for. The lush, well-manicured property provides exceptional privacy from surrounding homes. Huge windows and the cathedral ceiling provide ample light and exceptional views of the backyard oasis and gorgeous Toomer Creek. Massive third floor decks offer incredible sunset views. This home has been meticulously maintained and features a spectacular salt water pool and true deep water location. Listed by Krista Barnes 843.224.4474

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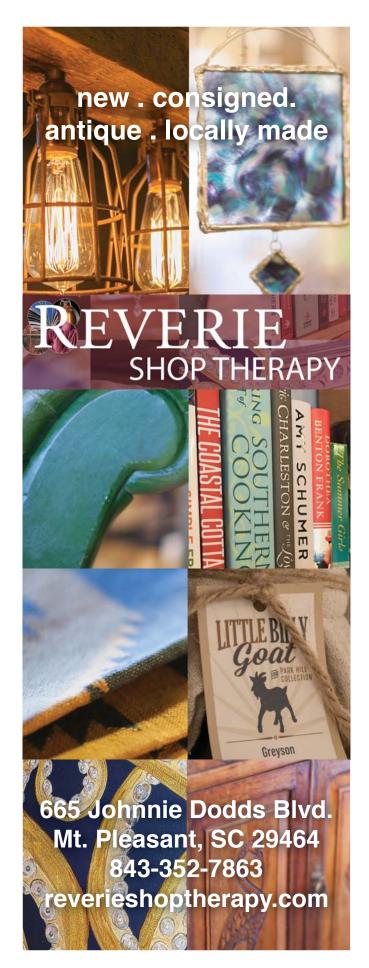
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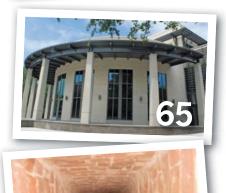
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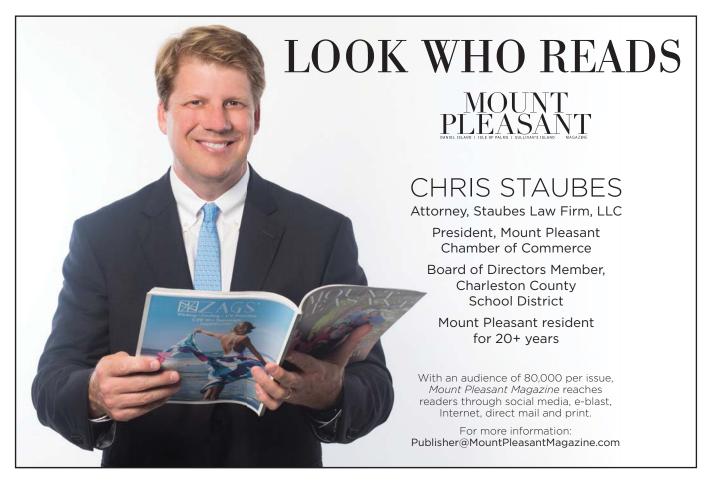






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Inquiries to: Mount Pleasant Magazine P.O. Box 22617, Charleston, S.C. 29413 843-881-1481 Info@MountPleasantMagazine.com "m so over the top about this issue.

Take, for instance, Brian Sherman's interview with Joe Riley. Why would *Mount Pleasant Magazine* write about Charleston's beloved longtime mayor? That was the question we asked when we first discussed the possibility of talking with Riley. Here's the answer we came up with: Why not look into how well he worked with Mount Pleasant's mayors over the past four decades? In Joe's early years in office, Mount Pleasant Mayor Johnnie Dodds was one of his mentors. This is a must read. Thanks, Brian.

This issue is packed full of good things going on in Mount Pleasant. You'll meet East Cooper Hospital's new CEO, Patrick Downes, and tour some of Mount Pleasant's public schools, thanks to Editor Denise K. James. The list goes on. And on. And on.

Our new contributing writer, Diane Pauldine, interviewed well-known local architect Sam Herin. His hard work and talent went into our new Town Hall. She also interviewed Dennis Knight of Whole Building Systems and Mark Uyak of DWG Consulting Engineers, two important contributors to the highly-anticipated project.

Life has a funny way of coming full circle. In 1979, when I first moved East of the Cooper, I worked for Diane's parents, Charles and Patricia Diggle, who published the *Moultrie News*. Years later, they sold it to *The Post and Courier*. Now that's a small-world story.

We really care about our town and about our new Town Hall. For the first time ever, all Mount Pleasant's departments and services are under one roof.

When you read our articles about Project Manager Brooks Blumenthal and about McKnight Construction, you'll understand why Town Administrator Eric DeMoura and his staff chose them to build the town's 92,000-square-foot new home. There's more to come on the new Town Hall in our September/October edition. For the latest about the new Town Hall, visit www.tompsc.com/index. aspx?nid=603. It's worth a click.

In 1989, I was publishing several publications, including *East Cooper Magazine*. On Sept. 21, when Hurricane Hugo slammed into our shoreline, we documented the devastation and the effects this Category 5 hurricane had on our community.

With the 2017 Hurricane season underway, Kalene McCort interviewed my longtime friends and local meteorologists Rob Fowler of WCBD 2 and Bill Walsh of WCSC 5. To the best of my knowledge, Rob and Bill are the only local meteorologists still in Charleston who were here when Hugo paid us a brief but destructive visit. You can access the digital version of this 76-page historic publication at www.HugoMagazine.com.

This issue includes three special sections, including Charleston's School Directory and Smiling Faces.

And, if you own a pet, you'll want to turn to page 121 for a look at our new *Mount Pleasant Pets*. Our content is exclusively for local pets and their owners. We've also launched a website, www.MtPleasant.Pet, where you can access other pet resources and the digital version of our newest magazine.

I hope you also feel that this issue is over the top with great information and content about the community we serve: Mount Pleasant.

Until next time,

BILL MACCHIO, Publisher

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emember the game of school – similar to house – that we all used to play as children? One of us would take on the role of "teacher" and one of us, or several of us, would be the "students." And later on, after a snack or a bike ride or even the next day, we'd inevitably play again, but this time the roles would be switched around. Someone else would be the teacher and someone else would be the student. Funny, isn't it, how the process of learning in adulthood is similar to this childhood game? The roles of giving and receiving knowledge are always changing – and the venue is not always inside a classroom.



The cover of our July/ August issue shows exactly what I mean. Check out local kid Wyatt Deaton enjoying the waves in this summery photo by Krysta Chapman. He's part of a larger crew of surfing youngsters who learn from older friends or family then turn around and show someone else how to do it. Read more in Krysta's

feature story on page 28.

Elsewhere in our Education issue, you'll learn more about former Charleston Mayor Joe Riley's friendship with Mount Pleasant's mayors over the years; weather patterns and hurricane tips to keep in mind this summer; the history of some of the public schools in East Cooper;

how Wando High School puts its literary magazine together; a new community art gallery in town; and much more. This is also the issue with our Independent School Directory, our new MP Pets supplement and Smiling Faces, our dental supplement! Whew – a lot to read on these long, sunny days!



Speaking of teaching and learning, one of my favorite parts of my job is working with my editorial interns. Even though I'm the one in charge, they always manage to teach me a thing or two. It's a good reminder, I think, to keep an open mind to those you never expected to learn from. Once we graduate from the classroom into what I like to call the school of life, everyone's got a lesson to share.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, y'all.

Yours, Denise K. James Editor



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Krysta Chapman is a freelance writer in Charleston who specializes in writing compelling and engaging copy for small businesses around the country. When she's not working, you can find her at the beach with her mermaid of a daughter, watching baseball (Go Phillies!) or indulging in delicious food with her husband.



Katie DePoppe is an award-winning freelance writer, developmental editor and former book publicist and magazine editor. She was born and raised in Charleston, where she lives on a small farm with her family. She counts antiquing, interior design and exploring historic places among her hobbies.





Thomas Runion, the owner of Salt Glass Media, LLC, is a professional photographer and videographer from Georgetown, now living in Charleston. After years of experience, Thomas created Salt Glass Media in 2017, specializing in weddings, real estate and portraits. Feeling he was blessed with the gift of snapping

memories, he is ready to share it with the world!



A graduate of Wofford College, **Emily Paschal** now lives in Mount Pleasant and attends graduate school at the College of Charleston. Her major in Government and minor in History at Wofford are incorporated into her writing for *Mount Pleasant Magazine*. She loves researching and writing about Mount Pleasant.

Interested in contributing to *Mount Pleasant Magazine?* Email your contact information (name, phone, mailing address) and one sample of work you have created (or a link to your work online) with the subject "Aspiring MPM Contributor" to Editor@MountPleasantMagazine.com.



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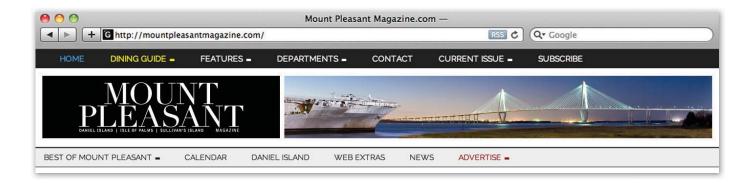
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isit **www.MountPleasantMagazine.com** for more than what you see in the print magazine: contests,

local resources and more fun stuff in general.

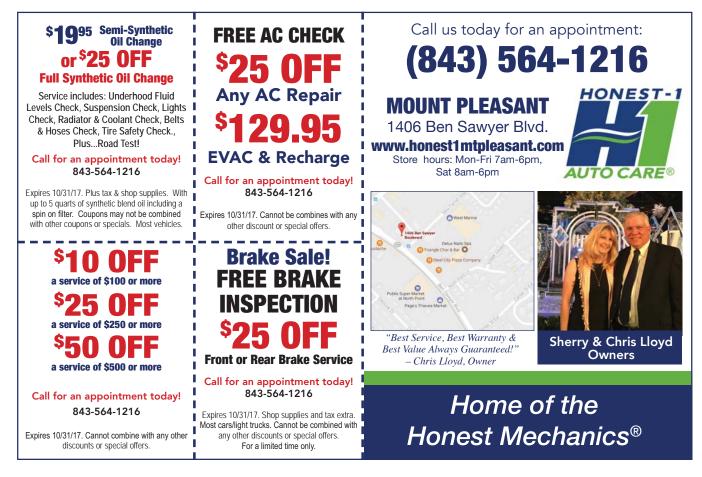
The Golden Spoon Awards results will be published in our September/October issue this year. We are looking forward to hearing more about your favorite restaurants, and we urge you to share the news of the Golden Spoon Awards with your friends outside of East Cooper, since we're extending the opportunity to win to any restaurant in the tri-county area. VOTE NOW at GoldenSpoonAwards.restaurant.



Mount Pleasant's first ever website all about pets is LIVE! Discover the best groomer, kennel or veterinarian for your pooch or puss. Learn the leash laws pertaining to Lowcountry beaches. It's all there – and so much more. Visit **MtPleasant.Pet**.

Be sure to share the digital versions of the 2017-2018 *Charleston Independent School Directory* and *Smiling Faces* with family and friends, so they can read along with you.





ONGOING EVENTS



Thru Nov.

CHARLESTON FARMERS MARKET

WHEN: Every Saturday. **TIME**: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

LOCATION: Marion Square.

What better way to spend a Saturday in summer than at a farmers market (featuring everything from local food to live music) in beautiful Marion Square? For more information, go to: www.charlestonfarmersmarket.com

Thru Oct. PAWS ON THE PATIO WHEN: Second Thursday of every month.

LOCATION: Mount Pleasant Towne Centre.

Bring your favorite furry friend to Burtons Grill for a relaxing happy hour. For \$25, you will receive two drink tickets and an appetizer buffet. \$10 per person goes to the Charleston Animal Society. For more information and to register, go to: www.mtpleasanttownecentre.com/event/ join-us-for-a-paw-ty-paws-on-the-patio/2145488589

Ungoing WHEN: Varies. TIME: Varies.

COASTAL EXPEDITIONS

LOCATION: Shem Creek.

This summer, don't miss out on the opportunity to kayak or paddle board through Charleston, all while experiencing beautiful scenery! Coastal Expeditions offers boat and dolphin tours as well. For more information, go to: www.coastalexpeditions.com



Ongoing

SHAGGIN' ON THE COOPER

WHEN: Varies.

LOCATION: Mount Pleasant Pier.

This popular music and dance event is back. Local bands perform live, and admission is \$10. For more information, go to: www.ccprc.com/1175/Shaggin-on-the-Cooper



Thru Oct. SUNSET AT FORT SUMTER WHEN: Fridays. TIME: Varies.

LOCATION: Liberty Square.

Join in the fun by attending this seasonal tour of Fort Sumter and learning more about Charleston's history. For more information and to make a reservation, go to: www.fortsumtertours.com/tours/sunset-tour



Thru Oct.

BLUES & BBQ HARBOR CRUISE

WHEN: Thursdays and the last Friday in each month.

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Charleston City Marina.

This two-hour cruise through the beautiful Charleston Harbor features the band Shrimp City Slim and a buffet. For more information and ticket purchases, go to: www.charlestonharbortours.com

Ungoing

PROGRAMS IN YOUR COUNTY PARKS

TIME: Varies.

LOCATION: Various Charleston County parks.

The Charleston County parks have dozens of exciting and diverse programs for you to participate in, from archery to yoga. For more information, go to: www.ccprc.com

Thru Sept.

WATERPARKS WHEN: May - September

TIME: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

LOCATION: Whirlin' Waters, Splash Zone, Splash Island.

Water you waiting for? Go have some fun at a waterpark near you. They all have amenities such as concessions, lockers, lounge chairs and more!



Thru Aug.

CHARLESTON RIVERDOGS HOME GAMES WHEN: Varies

TIME: Varies.

LOCATION: Joseph P. Riley Jr. Park.

Support your local baseball team by coming to one of over 40 exciting home games! For more information and ticket purchases, go to: www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t233

Thru Sept. 24th CATES IN THE

CAROLINAS

WHEN: May 12 through Sept. 24.

TIME: Varies.

LOCATION: Gibbes Museum of Art.

The Gibbes is showcasing an exhibition featuring the British Royal Collection this summer, which includes the work of artist and scientist Mark Catesby. *For* more information and ticket purchases, go to: www. gibbesmuseum.org/exhibitions/artist-scientist-explorermark-catesby-in-the-carolinas/83

Thru Nov. Charleston Jam on the Water Concert Series

WHEN: Varies

TIME: 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

LOCATION: Charleston City Marina.

Each night of this series of entertaining tours features local bands, food, art and more! For more information and to register, go to: www.fareharbor.com/ charlestonharbortours/items/26287

Thru Sept.

2ND SUNDAY ON KING STREET

WHEN: The second Sunday of the month

TIME: All day.

LOCATION: King Street.

A cherished Charleston tradition in which the street is closed to motor traffic and people gather to socialize and shop – it's something you won't want to miss this summer!



CHARLESTON CITY NIGHT MARKET

WHEN: Fridays and Saturdays this summer.

TIME: 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Charleston City Market.

Experience the largest handmade market in the Southeast at night, with over 120 different artists and vendors! For more information, go to: www.thecharlestoncitymarket. com/main/night-market-explore

PALMETTO BREEZE **MARGARITA MONDAY**

WHEN: Mondays this summer.

TIME: 7 p.m.

LOCATION: Red's Icehouse.

Relax with a margarita while sailing through the Charleston harbor. For more information and ticket purchases, go to: www.aqua-safaris.com/discover/ charleston/palmetto-breeze

Ungoing

CHARLESTON CARS AND COFFEE

WHEN: Saturdays this summer. TIME: 7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

LOCATION: Mount Pleasant Towne Centre, in front of Atlanta Bread.

Meet with fellow car and motorcycle enthusiasts for cool cars and good times.

10TH - 20TH FASHION CAMP TIME: 9:30 a.m. -

TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. LOCATION: Mount Pleasant

Towne Centre.

If you have a passion for fashion and are a girl between the ages of 6 and 14, this exciting camp is for you! It features design opportunities, the chance to develop your own personal style and more.



FRIDAY NIGHT BOOGIE

TIME: 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

LOCATION: Mount Pleasant Pier.

Intended for adults ages 21 and up, rock out to a variety of music while enjoying the scenery. Admission is \$10 and ID is required. *For more information, go to*: www.ccprc. com/1740/Friday-Night-Boogie



TH CHARLESTON MARGARITA FESTIVAL

TIME: 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

LOCATION: Brittlebank Park.

Prepare for the return of one of the most popular cocktail events in the Holy City! Sample delicious margaritas, food, live music and more. *For more information, go to*: www. charlestonmargaritafest.com



17TH - 21 ST SUMMER DANCE CAMP
TIME: 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
LOCATION: The Dance Arts Studio.

Immerse your 3-to-4 or 5-to-7-year-olds in the art of dance by enrolling them in this fun camp! Mini-recitals

are every Friday. For more information, go to:

www.thedanceartsstudio.com

ST REBELUTION

TIME: 6:15 p.m.

LOCATION: North Charleston Riverfront Park.

You're sure to get in a festive, island mood when you hear Rebelution's reggae tunes.



PND HANK WILLIAMS JR. TIME: 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Volvo Car Stadium.

Experience this Southern rocker as he goes on tour for his recently released "It's About Time" album.



AUGUST



Fridays

MUSIC AND MOVIES IN THE PARK

WHEN: Fridays in August.

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Memorial Waterfront Park.

Relax this summer by attending this free event that includes local music and an entertaining movie, not to mention the gorgeous Charleston Harbor as a backdrop! *For more information, go to:* www. experiencemountpleasant.com/events/summer-events/?ri=5



11[™]-**12**[™]

HOOTIE AND THE BLOWFISH TIME: 7 p.m.

LOCATION: Volvo Car Stadium.

Hootie and the Blowfish return to Daniel Island for another amazing concert this summer! *For more information and ticket purchases, go to*: www. ticketmaster.com/Hootie-and-the-Blowfish-tickets/artist/766592

7[™]-11 [™]

PIRATES AND MERMAIDS BEWARE! THEATER CAMP

TIME: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

LOCATION: Charleston Gaillard

Center.

If you're between 5 and 14, here's the chance to show off your acting chops! Learn about the magic of theater, create your very own character and more. *For more information and to register, go to*: www.storytreetheatre.org/#/class/pirates-and-mermaids-beware



9[™]-13[™]

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL TIME: Varies.

LOCATION: North Charleston

Coliseum.

The world-renowned Cirque du Soleil presents its newest touring show, Ovo, in Charleston this summer! *For more information and ticket purchases, go to*: www.cirquedusoleil.com/ovo



 $20^{\text{TH}} - 22^{\text{ND}}$

BEVCON CHARLESTON TIME: Varies. LOCATION: Varies.

Join in the fun during one of the country's most exciting beverage events! It covers many aspects of the beverage industry and is a great opportunity to learn from and network with beverage businesses. *For more information, go to*: www.bevconchs.com

21 ST THE SOUND OF CHARLESTON TIME: TBD

LOCATION: Circular Congregational Church.

Charleston's longest-running musical production is performing a special concert to celebrate the solar eclipse. *For more information and ticket purchases, go to*: www.soundofcharleston.com



THE 2017 GREAT AMERICAN SOLAR ECLIPSE TIME: 2:46 p.m. LOCATION: The Charleston area.

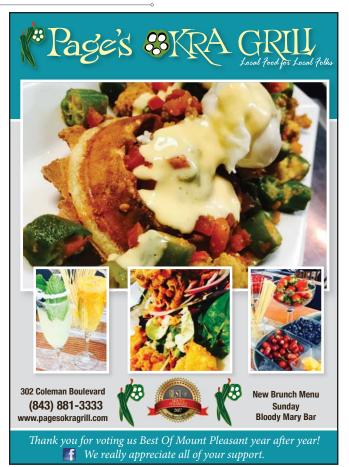
This eclipse, which will make its way across America from Oregon to South Carolina, will last for about 1.5 minutes and will be sure to astound you! There will be chances to view this eclipse from everywhere, from the USS Yorktown to a guided sea kayak tour.

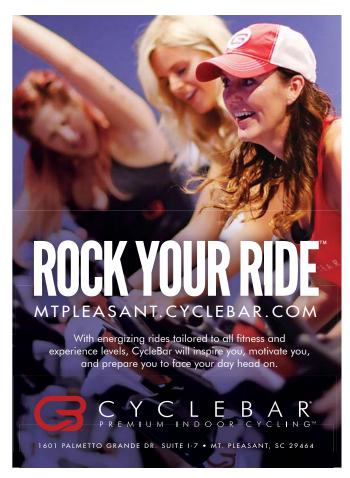


22ND TONY BENNETT
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Charleston Gaillard Center.

This legend has had a musical career spanning seven decades and has won 19 Grammys! *For more information and ticket purchases, go to*: www.gaillardcenter.com/buytickets/3b1a449f-9b35-e711-80f1-005056080889/tonybennett.html









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ED SHEERAN

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: North Charleston Coliseum.

One of the world's most celebrated artists, with 22 million album sales and two Grammys, is coming to Charleston! For more information, go to: https://www. northcharlestoncoliseumpac.com/events/detail/ed-sheeran

CHARLESTON RESTAURANT WEEK

TIME: Varies.

LOCATION: Varies.

One of the most highly anticipated events of the Lowcountry is coming up this September! Experience world-renowned cuisine at a multitude of restaurants. For more information, go to: www.charlestonrestaurantassociation.com/ charleston-restaurant-week

SCOTTISH GAMES AND HIGHLAND GATHERING

TIME: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

LOCATION: Boone Hall Plantation.

Celebrate Scottish culture at the 46th Charleston Scottish Games! For more information and ticket purchases, go to: www.charlestonscots.org

Sept. 29TH Oct. 9TH MOJA ARTS FESTIVAL TIME: Varies. LOCATION: Varies.

The 33rd annual festival of African-American and Caribbean arts features a rich lineup of traditional favorites, not to mention that admission to about half of the featured events is free! For more information and ticket purchases, go to: http://www.mojafestival.com/home



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Mother Ocean

Local Kids Hear the Call and Hit the Waves

BY KRYSTA CHAPMAN

hen the sun is shining, the waves are rolling in and the day is begging to be enjoyed, you can bet you'll find a solid lineup of surfers waiting to catch the perfect set of waves. But it's not just the adults who are setting their sights on the shoreline. Instead, kids of all ages are paddling past the break and right into the action as they help usher in the surf culture for the Charleston area's youth.

Excited to know more about the who, where and when, I caught up with five young shredders as they headed to the beach to catch the afternoon break and fill me in on how they got their start surfing the mellow waves of the Lowcountry coast.

With their school, Sullivan's Island Elementary, a short walk from the sand's edge and weekends spent enjoying the beach, surfing has become second nature for these kids growing up in the Carolinas. It's no surprise that they all got into the sport the way most kids do – watching their parents. All five kids were inspired by their dads to jump in the water and paddle out and surf for the first time.

And while an obvious love and respect for the ocean resides inside each of them, their favorite part of surfing comes down to catching waves with friends – plain and simple. For this group in particular, four boys and a girl,

they get together as often as possible to hone their craft and have the time of their young lives.

The youthful energy is undeniable as you listen to them talk about their many adventures of their 17 years of combined of surfing experience. For the two older boys, Liam Glowacki and Wyatt Deaton, both 11, they excitedly tell of the time they tandem surfed on a long board one summer, with Liam adding with a laugh: "I had a broken leg in a cast the whole time."

Two of the 10-year-olds, twins Cameron and Dubose Foley, started surfing only two

years ago and have both already claimed first place in their individual competitions. And finally, fellow 10-year-old Peyton Shaw has not only enjoyed surfing both coasts of the United States but has taken to the waves in Costa Rica,



where he lived with his family for over a year.

"I'm lucky to be able to surf here and in Costa Rica, because I love the ocean," Peyton pointed out.

As for the only girl of the group, Cameron said getting other girls out there is more difficult than it should be.







"The hardest part is getting out there in the first place," she said. "After that, the fun doesn't stop."

But the lack of interest from a majority of the other young ladies to join in on the fun hasn't kept Cameron from holding her own with the boys, thrashing through the surf and inspiring the younger females looking on from the shore.

It isn't all sand and surf for this group of high-energy school kids either. When they aren't hanging



at the beach, all five are full-blown athletes, using their talents in a myriad of other ways. From soccer to BMX to skating, if it involves an adrenaline rush or a fast-paced atmosphere, they want to be front and center.

As Wyatt put it: "We love anything with wheels or a board."

At the end of the day, it's exciting to see that the surf culture in Charleston is rising among the ranks of the younger kids, bringing a passion and dedication to a sport that has been enjoyed around here for decades. With the increased interest, the hope from everyone involved is that programs will soon abound to support the continued growth of the sport. While there is an obvious need for more, there are local surf shops, such as Ocean Surf Shop in Folly Beach and Parrot Surf & Skate in Mount Pleasant, that support local kids catching rides as early as possible, going as far as to sponsor some of them in local competitions. Carolina Surf Club welcomes members of all ages but tends to be geared toward a more mature group of surfers. And finally, the Sol Surfers Surf Camp offers lessons throughout the summer for beginners 6 years and older.

Kids and parents alike expressed



a desire to see more surf clubs in an area that is home to several incredible beaches. But this doesn't stop this group from hooking up at the hottest

make their mark on the Charleston surf community. Whether it's surfing their favorite beach break-out in Folly or staying a little closer to home in Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island, they're more excited than ever to take full advantage of the upcoming summer and chase the sun beyond the horizon. But more than anything, they're looking forward to a surge in wave-riding friends their age.

"We get to be out there with our friends, making turns and cutbacks," said DuBose, who wants to see more surfers his age showing up each day. "It's fun."

Who could argue with that reason to start surfing?

The genuine desire to share the energy and thrill of catching waves and the satisfaction of perfecting a new trick is a welcomed sentiment to see from the youngest generation.



surf spots to work on their newest moves – like kicking out the tail of their boards or catching a barrel – techniques they all hope to master.

Now is the time for these kids to

While I knew their talents and skills would blow me away, it was their attitude, excitement and energy out of the water that impressed and inspired me most.



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Put it on Your Calendar Now!

Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce Business & Community Expo

BY BRIAN SHERMAN



ometimes more is less. This is not the case with the upcoming Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce Business & Community Expo. In its seventh year, the annual event will feature more vendors, more networking, more fun and, if Expo Co-chair Frank Frazier has his way, more attendees than ever before.

"We hope at least 2,000 people will attend this year," said Frazier, who pointed out that last year's attendance approached the 1,500 mark. "We have 94 booths this year, 24 more than last year, and we've already sold them all, except for a few we've reserved for potential sponsors. And we have an interactive app this year that will make the Expo more fun and more educational than in the past."

The Expo is scheduled for Sept. 28 at the Omar Shrine Convention Center in Mount Pleasant. As it has for the past five years, East Cooper's biggest networking event gets underway at 2 p.m. The happy hour slated from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. will be held on the convention floor so attendees will be able to continue visiting with vendors. This year's happy hour entertainment, PlaneJane, is expected to draw much larger crowds than in the past.

"That's one of the biggest changes this year," Frazier said. "A lot of people are going to attend the Expo just to hear PlaneJane. We're pretty excited about that."

Wine, beer and other spirits will be available for purchase during the happy hour.

The Expo Committee, co-chaired by Keri Seay, will host two parties before the Expo gets underway. On July 17, vendors, sponsors and potential sponsors will get together for a reception at the Harbor Breeze Restaurant. And on Sept. 27, the night before the Expo, vendors and sponsors will be invited to an MVP party, also at the Harbor Breeze. In addition to networking and a fun time, they'll be able to set up their booths Wednesday night, rather than waiting until the day of the Expo.

"We thought our vendors would appreciate the opportunity to prepare for the Expo the night before instead of rushing to get it done Thursday morning," Frazier said. "And I think they will be enthusiastic about the chance to get to know the sponsors, their fellow vendors and the members of the Expo Committee in a relaxed setting."

Mount Pleasant Business & Community Expo sponsors include KandE Spirits, Merrill Lynch, Advanced Hearing Care, Monat, Carpet Baggers-Carpet One, Windwood Family Services, Nelson Printing, Charleston County, the town of Mount Pleasant and netGALAXY Studios. Food sponsors, who will offer their products at no charge to attendees throughout the Expo, are Jimmy Johns, Sticky Fingers, Charleston Hospitality Group and Napa.

Valuable door prizes, including a cruise, will be given out throughout the day.

"The Expo has been the biggest networking event in East Cooper for five years now," Frazier said. "This year, it's going to be bigger, better and more fun than ever before. Put the Expo on your calendar now. You won't want to miss it."

To learn more about the Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce Business & Community Expo, visit www. mountpleasantchamber.org or call Frank Frazier at 410-274-0023 or Keri Seay at 843-327-0813.

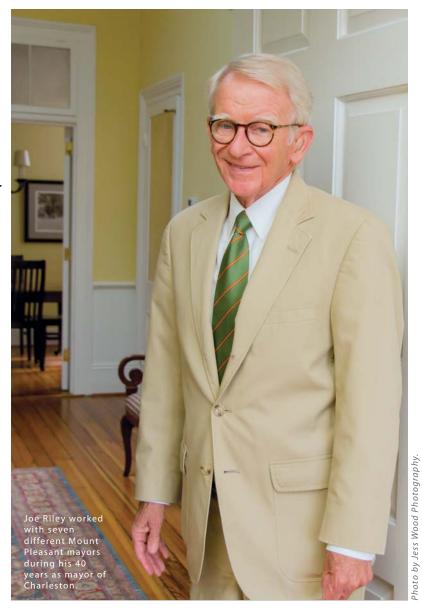
Great Teal Joe Riley and Mount Pleasant's **Mayors**

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

oseph Patrick Riley Jr., lifelong Dodger fan,

longtime mayor of Charleston and unabashed

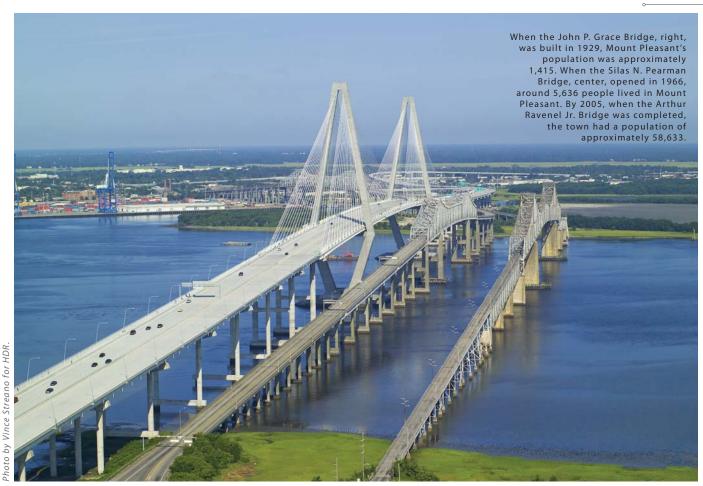
ambassador for the resplendent stretch of Coastal Carolina he has always called home, held up his hand, the space between his thumb and forefinger barely visible, to describe the size of the phone book that



"I knew Mount Pleasant was a great place to live and that it was positioned strategically to benefit from the growth that was occurring," said Riley. "When the

once listed every resident and business in Mount Pleasant, Sullivan's Island and Isle of Palms. When Riley moved into the mayor's office in Charleston in December 1975, Gerald R. Ford was the president of the United States, the cost of a postage stamp was about to rise from 10 to 13 cents and Mount Pleasant's population, according to the 1970 Census, was only 6,879. But even back then, Riley, who remained in office for four decades, was confident that Charleston's neighbor across the Cooper River would someday be among South Carolina's most vibrant municipalities.





Pearman Bridge was built in the 1960s, that unleashed development because it was much easier to get to Mount Pleasant."

The completion of the Silas N. Pearman Bridge in 1966 certainly played a key role in Mount Pleasant's meteoric rise from small bedroom community to the fourth largest and fastest-growing town in the state, and the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge, which replaced the Pearman and the older John P. Grace Memorial Bridge in 2005, didn't hurt either. But according to Riley, the most important factor in Mount Pleasant's growth has been the people who were elected to lead the town during his 40-year reign as mayor of Charleston.

"I got along with all the mayors of Mount Pleasant," said Riley. "We never had any arguments. We worked together. We were all part of the same community, and we approached it that way. We had a great team."

Riley has fond memories of all the Mount Pleasant mayors he served with. For example, he remembered that McGrath Darby's father ran a full-service gas station on Coleman Boulevard. On Saturdays, customers – and probably nearly residents as well – could hear the sounds of the Metropolitan Opera drifting from the station's radio. Johnnie Dodds, mayor of Mount Pleasant from



Photo courtesy of the Dodds family.

1976 to 1984, was, in an earlier time, Riley's baseball coach on Sullivan's Island. Riley didn't play ball on the Charleston peninsula because his parents owned a home on Isle of Palms and his family stayed there from July until Labor Day each year.

Riley said he and Dodds "went way back."

"He was one of my heroes and a kindhearted civic leader," the longtime mayor of Charleston commented.

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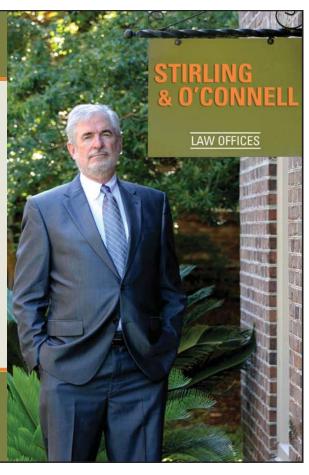
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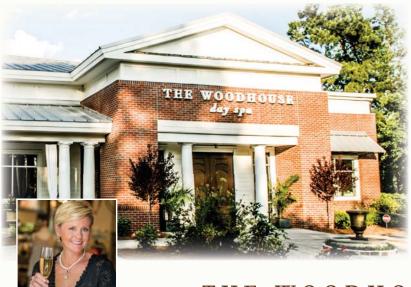
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Mount Pleasant mayors who served while Joe Riley was mayor of Charleston



G. Magrath Darby



Johnnie Dodds Jr. 1976-1984



Richard L. Jones 1984-1991



Cheryll Woods-Flowers



Harry M. Hallman Jr. 2000-2009



Billy Swails 2009-2013



Linda Page 2013-Current



Riley pointed out that he also worked well with Richard L. Jones (1984-1991), Cheryll Woods-Flowers (1992-2000), Harry M. Hallman Jr. (2000-2009), Billy Swails (2009-2013) and current Mayor Linda Page, who was elected in 2013.

"Linda has been terrific. It's amazing the consistent quality of leadership the people of Mount Pleasant have elected. It's been a huge benefit to our region," Riley remarked.

And who was the best mayor of Mount Pleasant during Riley's time at Charleston's helm?

"That's not for me to say. They were all great. Mount Pleasant and the whole region is blessed," he said. "Mount Pleasant has always had a great Town Council and a great group of public servants."

Though he never lived in Mount Pleasant, Riley's family played a role in the early growth of what would at one point become the fastest-growing municipality of its

"Mount Pleasant will be charming, beautiful and livable," Riley said.

size east of the Mississippi River. His father, "somewhat of a developer," convinced nine other people to help him buy and develop the land that eventually became Cooper Estates, off Johnnie Dodds Boulevard on the southwest side of Mount Pleasant.

Despite its incredible growth in recent years, Riley doesn't think Mount Pleasant will ever pass Charleston, North Charleston and Columbia to become the largest town in South Carolina.

"The land acreage just isn't enough. It's constrained geographically by Francis Marion National Forest and the Wando River. Even if the population becomes more dense, I don't think it will become so dense to make the population that large," he commented.

feature

The longtime mayor of Charleston predicted that the Mount Pleasant of 10 to 20 years from now probably won't look a whole lot different than it does in 2017 – or than it did in December of 1975, if you don't mind more people, more businesses and more traffic.

"Mount Pleasant will be charming, beautiful and livable," Riley said.

He added that as mayor of the largest city in the Lowcountry for four decades, he had a responsibility to all the towns and municipalities in the Charleston area.

"People may work in a different community, pray in a different community, go to the doctor's office, hospitals and restaurants

in a different community and see friends and family in a different community," he explained. "What's important to Mount Pleasant is important to the entire region."

Riley, who turned 74 early this year, retired from his position as mayor of Charleston in January 2016 but certainly didn't retire from life. As the first occupant of the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Endowed Chair of American Government and Public Policy at The Citadel, he taught



a class that delved into his time as mayor of Charleston. A 1964 graduate of The Citadel, he said he's looking forward to teaching again during the coming year.

After four decades as mayor of Charleston, Riley is right back where he started, practicing law in the same office on Broad Street where he launched his professional career in 1967, shortly after graduating from the University of South Carolina School of Law.



Linking Creativity and Success Meet Local Artist

Meet Local Artist John Chitwood

BY DENISE K. JAMES

ong before Lowcountry artist John Chitwood finished high school and enrolled in the art program at the University of Georgia, he'd been honing his skills with pencil and paper. And though drawing and illustration came easily during his childhood years, he was not prepared for the "artistic lifestyle" that was pushed on him in college. And he didn't quite like it.

"I really didn't 'get' fine art," he confessed to me over iced coffee. "The examples were weird. I wasn't pleased with the gallery crowd, and the feeling was mutual."

So Chitwood dropped out of the program at UGA and headed south to Daytona Beach, Florida. He wanted to make money, he said, and needed to find that elusive connection between creative work and financial gain. He soon discovered it in the Sunshine State, enrolling in the





Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, where he used his knowledge of color and composition to pursue illustration and graphics. Thus, his career as a commercial artist got started and brought him back to Charleston in 1988, where he found success creating advertisements for television, radio and print. His creative headquarters, Renaissart Graphic Design, was located at 538 King St. for

many years after opening in 2000.

Now the Charleston native has moved his studio to East Cooper, settling in the Clay Cottage at 1123 Chuck Dawley Blvd., right down the street from the offices of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*. A resident of Oakhaven in Mount Pleasant, Chitwood loves his new, convenient space, which he shares with a few other local creatives.

"There's pottery downstairs, guitar upstairs ... I love the creative environment and the escape," he commented.

Chitwood's reputation for creating charming and engaging designs recently preceded him when he was approached with an offer he couldn't refuse











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poster.

"They wanted quintessential Charleston charm," he said. "Something tourism-friendly. They set the parameters."

The poster, titled "Music Lessons," is not actually a painting but a digital production that began as a photograph. Chitwood said it scarcely resembles the original photo after cropping, color tweaking and substantially manipulating the elements. A lifelong lover of intricate details, he also embellished the image with mice, birds, a lizard and even a captivating pair of youthful eyes gazing out from the blinds on the house – the eyes of his own daughter, Katie. His passion for such intricacies in art came from a couple of his key influences: a famous Dutch printmaker named M.C. Escher and Bev Doolittle, an American

watercolor artist known for painting animals and landscapes.

"My parents did a good job of exposing me to the arts," he said. "I think my mother may have bought some prints of M.C. Escher for my room as a child. I was always amazed at the detail, the surrealism and play on space and perspective. And the Doolittle influence comes directly from my Aunt Martha and Uncle







Gene. They lived in Atlanta while I was at UGA, and they were my home away from home."

Chitwood pointed out that his mother, who is an artist herself, continues to paint more than ever and that he "would love to get back to it as well." For now, though, he's enjoying the positive response to the Piccolo poster and to his other work that was displayed at the Gaillard Auditorium throughout the festival.

Despite all of his commercial success over the years, Chitwood is somewhat reserved about his ability to bring about great emotion in others with his work. He said he "lacks the artistic temperament."

"I'm good at art visually, and I have the ability, but I'm not that deep," he quipped. "I believe that what we call great art provides

some kind of social commentary, is inspiring and affects people emotionally."

I couldn't help but point out that some of Chitwood's hidden details probably have affected his viewers emotionally. Besides, how would he know without asking – which he said he never did?

"If that's true, then I'm honored," he said, beaming.

A Learning Experience

ECMC's New CEO

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

he new chief executive officer at East Cooper Medical Center is well aware that he doesn't know everything about every department of the hospital. He insisted, however, that being an expert on two-and-a-half dozen building blocks of a modern medical facility is not a prerequisite for success in today's health care environment.

Patrick Downes, who took over the reins of the 130-bed acute care hospital at the end of March, waded into the complex world of hospital administration after earning a bachelor's and a master's in Business Administration at Florida State University, entering a residency program operated by Tenet Health, which owns East Cooper Medical Center. At North Shore Medical Center in Miami, he said he learned from everyone at the hospital.

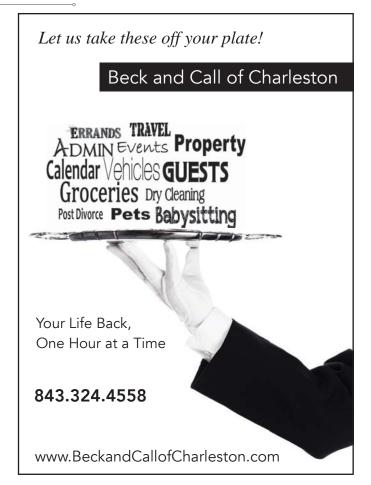
He readily admitted that his education is nowhere near complete.

"Hospitals are like little cities. There's 30 different departments, and you have to have a basic knowledge of all 30," said the 33-year-old Downes. "Even though I went through the residency program, it doesn't mean I know everything about hospitals. My job is to hire the right people, support them and leverage their knowledge to help make the right decisions."

All of Downes' previous experience is in Florida. Most recently, he was chief executive officer of Coral Gables Hospital, and he also has served as chief operating officer at Hialeah Hospital and associate administrator of Tenet Florida Physician Services – a 70-member practice management group – and of North Shore Medical Center. Prior to that, he was a bill analyst and administrative assistant for the Florida House of Representatives and chief of staff for Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

Downes' experience in politics and medicine have







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taught him one important fact about the current battle over the future of health care in this country: Nobody really knows how it will turn out. He is confident, however, that whatever plan emerges needs to account for all Americans who might require health care services — now and in the future.

"The plan needs to have coverage for everyone, regardless of chronic

diseases or pre-existing conditions," he said.

Speaking of the future, Downes sees three major trends in health care: the expansion of telehealth, real-time diagnostics through an ingestible

pill and an increase in surgeries in outpatient clinics rather than in hospitals.

Downes said telehealth will expand access to primary care physicians through smartphones and other devices, but it will also give patients immediate access to specialists, possibly saving lives in the process. For instance, he said time is of the essence when a person suffers a stroke, pointing out that treatment within a two-hour window is essential. Through telehealth, a neurologist miles away can carry out a quick exam and prescribe treatment that can prevent long-term damage.

Real-time diagnostics gleaned from a pill the patient swallows or from a wrist band is still decades away, Downes said, but the technology is on the way.

And, on the business side of the medical world, he predicted that sometime soon, most surgeries will be done in outpatient centers rather than in hospitals. That's not necessarily a bad thing for hospitals, he said.

"Lots of elective surgeries are already going outside the hospital," he explained. "So hospitals are investing in ambulatory surgery centers, not competing with them."

He added that he sees another trend in health care: Because they can research various procedures on the



East Cooper Medical Center CEO Patrick Downes talks with Tom Fowler, who been a volunteer at the hospital for five years.

internet, patients know much more than they once did. For instance, patients who need a partial knee replacement can learn all about robotic surgery, then shop around for surgeons who are experts in the field.

Downes pointed out that though the future of the U.S. health care system might be a bit cloudy right now, medical care in the Mount Pleasant area is on the right track: East Cooper Medical Center has been No. 1 in patient satisfaction among all Tenet hospitals for 12 straight years.

"There are extraordinary surgeons at this hospital. They're fantastic," he said. "We pride ourselves on our staff, doctors and nurses, and our volunteers are important as well. First-time visitors to the hospital get an escort to wherever they need to go."

"It's a fun job. I really enjoy it," he added.

Downes and his wife, Ashley, live in Mount Pleasant with their two young daughters – Emily and Logan.

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Rain O Shine

A Chat With Local Weathermen

BY KALENE MCCORT

here is beauty in the storm. The way the cloud colors morph from light gray to harsh black, over electric green marsh grass. Slug-sized raindrops hit the ground with force, as strong gusts send leaves dancing across slick pavement. The crackle of thunder and the way lightning touches down to illuminate the sky can make even grown men cower with its abrupt intensity.

While these natural wonders sometimes send our pets running for cover and interrupt our beach plans, they provide a balance nonetheless. Two men dedicated to tracking the Lowcountry's weather patterns and making sure we know when to leave the house with umbrella in tow are meteorologists Rob Fowler and Bill Walsh. Their careers have been filled with hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and plenty of sunshine. We chatted with the two about industry accolades, the upcoming hurricane season and what they love most about reporting on heat waves, typhoons and everything in between.

Rob Fowler is the chief meteorologist at Channel 2. His curiosity about weather was sparked early. At the age of 5, he found himself in New Orleans in the midst of 1965's Hurricane Betsy, where intense flooding forced his family to flee to his grandparents' home. While most children would be frightened by howling winds and sandbagged streets, Fowler found himself riding a wave of excitement – eager to see what would happen next.

"My grandparents gave me a job that night and that



was to try and keep the water out of the house by putting dry towels under the door," said Fowler. "This is a memory that is still very vivid and fresh in my mind some 52 years later! That night, I knew I wanted to learn more about how hurricanes work and how the weather works in general."

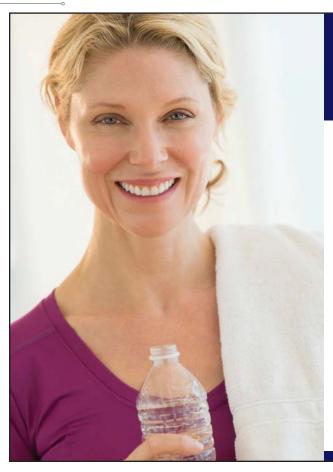
What followed was a lasting career in both television and radio, sprinkled with awards. Always a credible source for delivering up-to-date information, Fowler weighed in on what lies ahead.

"In an average year, we can expect 12 named storms, with six of those becoming hurricanes and three major hurricanes," said Fowler. "The latest National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecast predicts a range of

11 to 17 tropical storms, five to nine hurricanes, with two to four major hurricanes."

In addition to having a family emergency plan and making sure you are stocked up on bottled water, flashlights, candles and nonperishable food, Fowler encouraged residents to keep electronics charged in order to stay up-to-date on the latest alerts.

Bill Walsh's career is about as varied as the weather he covers. From having a brief stint on the daytime drama "The Young and the Restless" to being a lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, complete with missions to Iraq and Afghanistan, this Emmy-award winner has always been one for adventure. While reporting has taken him to Italy, Israel and South America, Walsh finds great joy in



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covering weather in the Lowcountry.

"Being able to be there for people during severe weather and hurricanes and becoming part of their lives is greatly rewarding," said Walsh. "Being part of Live 5 News and carrying the torch of the late great Charlie Hall is an honor I take very seriously."

"I have always been interested in weather since getting my pilot's license at age 16," Walsh added. "I used to watch the local weatherman on WJAR Channel 10 in Providence, Rhode Island, and aspired to do the same. Ironically, I ended up working for him doing weekends on WLNE before moving to South Carolina in the '80s."

While Fowler and Walsh have had slightly different career paths, they both had a frontrow-seat to the storm of the century that wreaked havoc on the Lowcountry in September of 1989.

"I always tell people Hugo was an experience that I will never forget," said Fowler, whose efforts during that storm taught me how to cover and forecast a storm with such intensity and how what you say and how you say it are so vital to your audience."

Walsh also had the responsibility and the opportunity to alert viewers about the Lowcountry's most notorious weather event.

"Covering Hugo was like no other storm, especially

for a young guy with only three years in the market," said Walsh. "We had to cover the storm and evacuate the television station at the same time. It was a very dangerous

> storm and kept intensifying right up until landfall. We were a smaller television operation. I was at WCIV at the time, and our job was to alert people to the danger and hopefully save lives

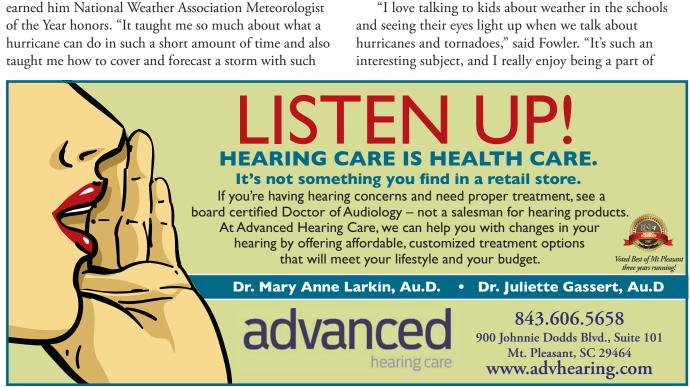
> > knowing a 10- to 20-foot storm surge was on the

way."

Both men enjoy discussing the dynamics of storms to enthused students, and perhaps they see a bit of themselves in those curious youngsters eager to learn about quarter-

sized hail and tsunamis.

and seeing their eyes light up when we talk about hurricanes and tornadoes," said Fowler. "It's such an interesting subject, and I really enjoy being a part of



Rob Fowler

it. I also feel it's important for us to be a part of the community and help charities and nonprofits with raising awareness and funds."

In addition to delivering the weather, Walsh delivers action-packed literary gems. In the vein of Tom Clancy, his novels have received rave reviews from fans and critics alike. His first two full-length novels, "The Umbrella Option" and "Red Carpet Ransom," follow the thrilling journey of Homeland Security Agent Jake Stein as he deals with drug cartels and high-

profile kidnappings.

"I am working on a third novel right now called 'Black Duck," said Walsh. "It's set in 1929 and is a novel based on real characters who were bootleggers moving illegal liquor up and down the East Coast from Canada. One of the characters is my real-life great uncle who was part of what was called The

Combine – an organized crime operation made up of Northeastern mobsters."

He's also writing a book filled with real-life celebrity interviews and hopes it will hit bookstore shelves soon.

From reporting from the comfort of TV station studios, in front of green screens, to hitting the town in rain boots to present up-to-the minute, onthe-scene action, Fowler and Walsh continue to wow viewers with their dedication to the job.

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Bill Walsh









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Old School Knowledge FOR

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A Refresher Course

BY DENISE K. JAMES

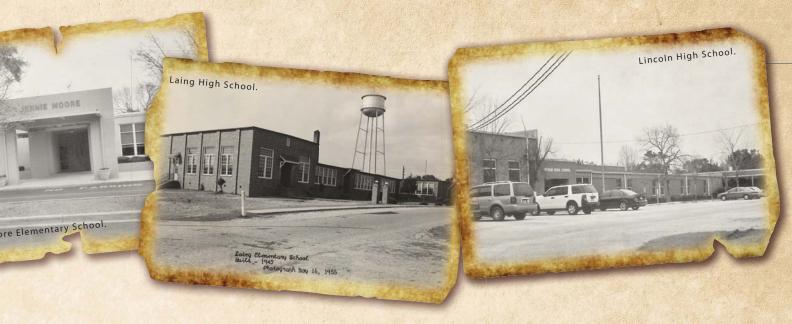
ecently, the Charleston County School District sold the old Laing Middle School and its site, located here in Mount Pleasant, to corporate giant Home Depot. The building is still there as I write this article, as Home Depot has yet to tear it down, but I know it'll soon be gone, and I'm trying not to be unhappy about it. While I never actually went inside the building, its dilapidated appearance and overgrowth of weeds and tall grass intrigued me. I longed to go inside, wander the silent halls and daydream about what scholarly discussions took place there, but a heartfelt email to Home Depot's PR department for permission yielded nothing.

There aren't many schools left in the district, especially East of the Cooper, that are part of the "old guard." The former Laing on Highway 17 is one of them, at least for now, but most have been torn down to make



Jennie Mod

way for newer, larger buildings. In fact, according to Rebekah Dobrasko's report from 2005, "Architectural Survey of Charleston County's School Equalization Program," the city of Charleston and its outlying rural areas (that included Mount Pleasant, y'all) had the



second-largest number of students attending its public schools in the state. As we all know, the Mount Pleasant portion of the district has always been bursting at the seams; in fact, a news article by David Quick from *The Post and Courier* dated June 17, 2000, stated: "If the population growth continues at its current pace in this town, the public schools can expect to have 2,600 more students packing into its current schools and proposed new high school in 15 years."

At that time, Cario Middle and Pinckney Elementary were new, and Wando High School had 14 trailers on its old campus on Whipple Road. So, in other words, the need for more space to educate in East Cooper is a continuous one. And even though Moultrie, Jennie Moore, Laing, Sullivan's Island and the old McClellanville Public School are either demolished, remodeled or hosting new entities, it's important to remember their earlier stories.

MOULTRIE HIGH AND MIDDLE

The original Moultrie High School was located on Pitt Street in the Old Village. The school found a new home on Coleman Boulevard in the 1944, with a new wing added in 1953. An article written by Harriet Broom



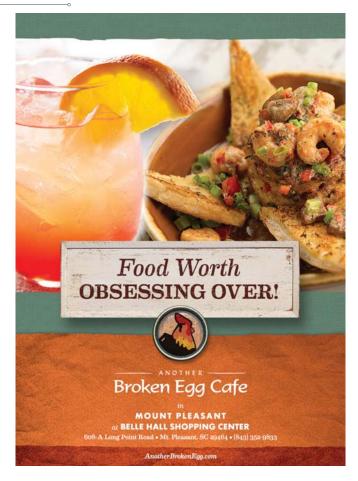
in 1957 stated: "The new building was connected to the old in such a way as to leave a patio in the center of the construction. The members of the Mt. Pleasant Garden Club have recently put a lot of hard work into making the patio a place of which the school can be proud." In 1973, following desegregation, high school students relocated to Wando High School (on Whipple Road) and the former building transitioned into Moultrie Middle School. It was demolished in 2007 to make way for the snazzy new Moultrie Middle we know and love today.

LAING HIGH AND MIDDLE

Another middle school in Mount Pleasant, Laing, has a rich history. The school was started by Cornelia Hancock for the purpose of educating freed slaves. It soon evolved to Laing Industrial School, an institution for educating



kids in practical trades and funded by Henry M. Laing, and became a feeder school for the new Laing High, located at the spot on Highway 17 North that Home Depot just purchased. After desegregation, high school kids went to Wando and Laing became a middle school. The newest version of Laing, a magnet school open since fall 2015, is located on Bulrush Basket Lane and garners continued accolades in the field of STEM education.













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JENNIE MOORE ELEMENTARY

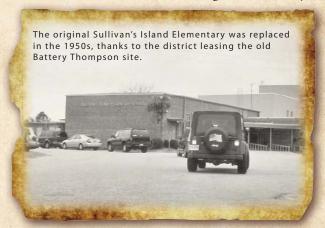
In the early 1950s, a new elementary school for African-American students opened about seven miles north of Mount Pleasant. It replaced five other elementary



schools in the rural area and it was named after civic leader Jennie Moore. Originally a feeder school for Laing, Jennie Moore eventually became East Cooper's first magnet school in the 1980s. Jennie Moore Elementary still operates as a magnet school; its focus is the creative arts. The updated building, opened in fall 2015, shares a campus with Laing on Bulrush Basket Lane.

SULLIVAN'S ISLAND ELEMENTARY

The original Sullivan's Island Elementary, a wooden structure approximately 50 years old, was replaced in the mid-1950s thanks to CCSD leasing the old Battery



Thompson site. Though the lease was approved for a total of 99 years by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay, plans to build a brand-new Sullivan's Island Elementary came to fruition in 2014. A beautiful maritime-themed structure welcomed students back from their temporary home at the old Whitesides Elementary on Rifle Range Road, where the school was located after 2010 due to structural concerns.

LINCOLN MIDDLE-HIGH

In the early 1950s, students from a rural school in McClellanville known as Old Lincoln School were treated to an upgrade: the new Lincoln Middle-High, which consisted, according to an article in *The News and Courier* from 1953, "of 18 classrooms, offices, multipurpose room, library, domestic science laboratory, shop and agricultural study rooms." More recently, students at Lincoln were displaced to Wando in 2016 when the district decided that low enrollment



made the school unworthy of maintaining. McClellanville families took the news hard, as a new high school for this quaint Southern town is still likely several years away.

MCCLELLANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

The stately McClellanville Public School, still bearing its original name across the top of the building, began in the 1920s as an elementary school, then shuttered in the early 1980s. It opened as McClellanville Middle School in 1991 but closed again in 2009 due to low enrollment.



After standing vacant for several years, the district reopened the doors in the 2016-2017 academic year as a temporary abode for Oceanside Collegiate Academy. This year, Oceanside will move into its new location at Carolina Park in Mount Pleasant. Discussions for the future of McClellanville Public School continue.



That Long-Ago Mount Pleasant

Francis Graddick Looks Back

BY DIANE PAULDINE

ooking at Mount Pleasant today, you might have a tough time believing that this ever-expanding town was once a small, quaint bedroom community where everyone knew everyone else's name and life moved at a slow and steady pace. Modern development has a way of changing all that, and, if not for a few history books and the recollections of those who grew up here, that idyllic picture certainly would fade away forever. Francis Graddick is one of those people who remembers that long-ago Mount Pleasant.

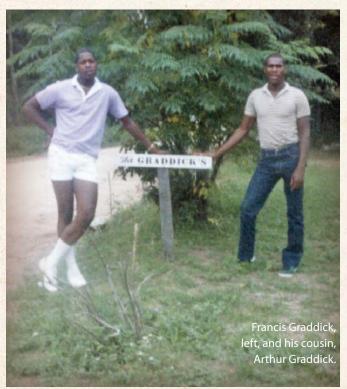
Graddick recalls a time when his uncles would take him hunting for deer and even possum where Mount Pleasant Towne Centre is now a bustling center of commerce. That wasn't always the case, of course.

"Years ago, that was nothing but woods," he said. Born in Charleston in 1962, Graddick lived in Mount Pleasant until he was 5, when his family moved to Brooklyn, New York. For the next 12 years or so, he returned to Mount Pleasant every summer to stay with his grandparents.

"It was very different back in those days. I can remember when everyone would hitchhike to get where they needed to be," Graddick said. "You don't see that too much these days, but, back then, everyone did it."

He explained that even enjoying boiled peanuts was a unique experience when he was a kid.

"My cousins and I would go pick peanuts out of the field ourselves and my grandmother would boil them for us. Now you just run to the store when you want them," he said.



Staying with his grandparents each summer left him not only with many great memories but also with an appreciation for hard work and perseverance.

"My grandmother, Martha Gaillard, was actually born in one of the slave cabins at Boone Hall Plantation," Graddick said. "As a child, she would go with her



grandmother, who worked at Boone Hall, carrying a lantern to see because it was so early in the morning."

Looking further back into his family history, Graddick's great-great-grandmother, Serena Jefferson Spann, was brought to Boone Hall Plantation in 1864 and remained there as a cook until her death in 1936. Serena was very well known back then for her culinary skills, and Graddick said the talent was passed down the line to her granddaughter, Martha.

"When my grandmother Martha cooked, people who worked at Boone Hall would come to her house just to eat," he said.

While Graddick had fun during those long East Cooper summers, he also worked hard.

"My Aunt Catherine and Uncle Edward once owned and operated the Exxon gas station and restaurant that were located next to the Olive Branch AME Church on Highway 17, where all the locals went for lunch. I worked at the station many summers pumping gas," he said.

Once he was old enough, Graddick joined the Army,







serving his country for about 12 years in Germany, Korea and Georgia. He left the military when Operation Desert Storm in Iraq was about to get underway.

Graddick joined the New York City Police Department, launching what would be a 20-year career as a patrolman, a member of the Street



Narcotics Enforcement Unit and a communications sergeant.

"We had a good team. Putting safety first and knowing what everyone was doing at all times was key to making it work and keeping everyone safe," he said.

Graddick admitted that working in Brooklyn's housing developments could be nerve-racking at times.

"We were standing on the roof of a building once and thought people were shooting fireworks," he recalled. "We quickly realized it wasn't fireworks and that they were actually shooting live rounds in our direction."

While that was certainly frightening, nothing prepared Graddick for his most harrowing experience as a police officer.

"By far, 9/11 was the worst," he said. "You really have no idea just how much devastation there was unless

you saw it up close."

After retiring as a police sergeant, Graddick and his wife decided to move home to Mount Pleasant, but he admitted he thought he was moving back to a small town.

"I don't miss New York, although my wife does at times, but it's definitely different here than when I was a kid," he said. "I can remember standing on Venning Road and from there being able to see the Cooper River Bridge. You had such an unobstructed view, you could actually see rain coming in, which my cousins and I would try to outrun," he said with a laugh. "If you stand on Venning Road now, you can't see past 100 feet."

Even though Mount Pleasant is no longer the small hometown of his youth, Graddick and his wife are here to stay and are working on growing their business, Graddick Photography.

"I became interested in photography over 10 years ago after taking some pictures at a party in New York. The photos looked good on the camera, but once I looked at them on the computer, they weren't that good," he commented.

So he signed up for school, upgraded his equipment and what started out as a hobby is now a strong passion.

"We now work with a few local event planners and are focusing on my true love, which is family portraits and fashion photography," he explained.

Graddick also earns extra money by driving for Uber, which he called "my boat fund."

"My uncles used to take me out fishing and crabbing during the summers when I was here as a kid. And I still love it today," he said.

It may not be like before, but, with many family members still living here, Graddick said new memories surely will be made.



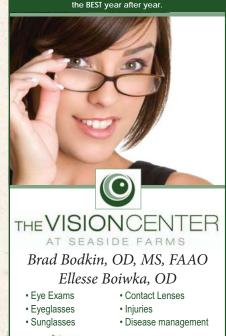
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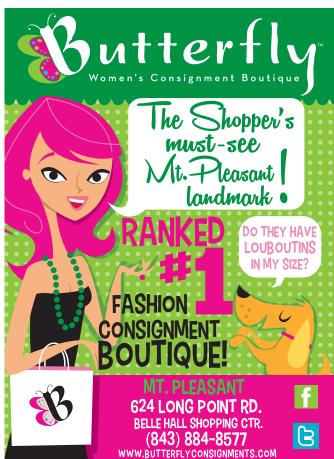
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Bringing Art to All

Perspective Gallery in Mount Pleasant

BY KATIE DEPOPPE



here's a duality in the world's view of art. On one hand, it is seen as a mere luxury afforded to those with financial means, while there are those who believe that to express oneself is a necessity and that enjoying the beauty and emotion captured in a painting or in print is an essential part of life. Under this premise, art is and should be accessible to everyone.

The latter is the goal of the new Perspective Gallery in Mount Pleasant. Founded in May 2017 by a generous donation from the Mount Pleasant Artists Guild, the gallery's mission is to promote the practice, teaching and appreciation of fine arts in the community; to represent and be of service to the arts community at all levels; to provide members opportunities to improve their skills, show their work and market their works; and, perhaps most importantly, to make art a part of the lives of children, the elderly, the disadvantaged, the abused and neglected, and the financially, physically or mentally challenged members of society.

In short, the Perspective Gallery's self-appointed charge is to make art and art education available to the community as a whole.

And 36 days was all it took. The idea for a gallery was first introduced by Becky Taylor, director of Perspective, during her tenure as president of the Mount Pleasant Artists Guild, and conversations with the membership's 120-plus members were favorable to the plan. But the Guild had to move quickly when a former gallery closed and the perfect space opened in the Crickentree Center.

"Not all of our members were painting every day," said Taylor, "but a lot of them were, and the organization had been in existence for over 20 years at that point, so we had to make a quick decision to accept the space when it became available."

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Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:30 pm president of the Guild, Conant coowns a construction company with her husband. Along with a five-person steering committee, she oversaw the renovations. All 40 of the awardwinning artists who committed to

rent wall space in the gallery also lent their time to help with painting, cleaning and repairs. The group took possession of the property on April 17, 2017, and opened the doors for the first time on May 22.

While the Guild funded the start-up costs, the gallery is sustained by the

wall space rentals and the artistic workshops the organization hopes to offer in the coming months.

Reflecting its intended patronage, an eclectic array of images line the cool gray walls: oceanic, marshland and pastoral scenes; lowcountry skylines; and the faces of people and wildlife alike.

"We want this to be a unique experience for people," said Conant. "We've gotten great feedback that our gallery is a comfortable place with variety and simplicity."

"And all of our paintings are originals," Taylor added.

Originals not only hang from the walls but are in process within the Gallery. During operating hours, artists are on duty to help customers and answer questions, but, as patrons browse, they paint.

"It adds to the atmosphere," said Taylor. "It's mesmerizing to see an artist paint, isn't it?"

The mediums and styles range as well. Acrylics, pastels, water colors, oils and photography are the means to showcase realism, impressionism and abstracts. When asked what the most popular sellers are, Taylor said that while many artists capture Lowcountry scenes, all styles are popular.

"I think for a lot of people, it's about the subject matter, or it's



about the color or the mood or even the size if they have to fill a wall," she said. "The beauty of the subjectivity of art is that it's all in the eye of the beholder."

And that is just the idea that the Guild and the Gallery members intend to promote: that art is for everyone, and it's an escape for those who choose to pursue it. In addition to more outreach programs and workshops, Conant listed the Guild's scholarship as a crowning accomplishment. Awarded annually to a student majoring in art or an art-related field, the organization plans to increase the number of scholarships awarded as the Gallery and membership in the Guild continue to grow.

Perspective Gallery is located at 1055 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., Suite 50, in Mount Pleasant. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Gallery's grand opening celebration is scheduled for July 29, 2017. To learn more, visit www.mpagperspectivegallery.com.

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What we're looking for:

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Who the judges are:

We will have at least four judges – maybe five or six, depending on how many poems we get – for this competition. The judges for the poetry contest will be community members who love original writing, including Marcus Amaker, Charleston's very first Poet Laureate.



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(Subject to change at editor's or publisher's discretion.)

- Deadline for all poems is Oct. 1, 2017.
- There is no entry fee for the contest.
- All participants must be under 18 years of age.
- All participants must live in Mount Pleasant, Isle of Palms, Sullivan's Island, Awendaw, McClellanville, Daniel Island or Huger.
- All participants must send only one (1) poem.
- Poems should be no longer than 25 lines.
- Poems should not be graphically sexual or violent in nature
- Poems should be typed in a legible font. No handwriting, please!
- Each poem should be submitted with a second sheet of paper listing the poet's name, age, contact information and school of attendance. The actual poem should not have any contact information on the page.
- Winning poems will be hand-selected by judges appointed by *Mount Pleasant Magazine*.
- Submissions should be sent to: editor@mountpleasantmagazine.com.



Pruning Wando's Garden of Ideas

The 2017 Issue of "The Outlet"

BY DENISE K. JAMES

he 2016-17 staff of *The Outlet*, Wando High School's annual literary journal, just collectively learned an important truth: Not every great work of art is the result of solitude. This year's issue, a beautiful, thematic piece filled with passionately-crafted visual and written artwork, could not have happened without the team of dedicated students behind it.

Made up of 11 students – the "perfect number" according to faculty advisor and English teacher Cindy Lawson – the staff of *The Outlet* brought their individual talents to the table for this year's journal. And apart from the seniors who just bade Wando goodbye, most of them want to work on the journal again during the upcoming academic year. The class that puts together the journal is known as Creative Writing II, and participants range from those emerging from Creative Writing I (a workshop-style class that is not a prerequisite) to newcomers within the Wando literary family.

"I'd seen *The Outlet* before, and I thought this would be interesting," said Conor Cradock, a member of the design group, colloquially known as the "A Team." "I wanted the opportunity to analyze literature differently."

"We're all very different, but we've found common ground with each other," pointed out Madeleine Darby. "I've even made a best friend here."

"[This class] has helped me discover my purpose," added Kasey Fordyce.

The whole staff for the journal is benevolently led by editor-in-chief Layne Barron, who chose this year's theme, "Into the Rose Garden," based on "The Four Quartets" by T.S.

feature



Staff members Savannah Godolphin, Laurel Campagna and Nicholas Dillman review designs for The Outlet.

Eliot. The other students embraced the concept, dividing the journal into four sections: the white rose for purity; the red rose for romance; the purple rose for grief; and the black rose for evil. While the concept and sections helped organize a vision for the journal, the students agreed that it didn't limit their fellow students who wanted to submit. In fact, choosing work was harder than ever this year, and submissions were numerous and of good quality.

"This year we accepted nonfiction and songs," pointed out Adelle Lacy, a member of the design team. "But since we had a surplus, we had to be selective."

So what does the timeline look like for *The Outlet*? It starts with fundraising efforts to pay for the journal. This past year, for example, the students put together a poetry slam, which they held at the Black Box Theatre, charging \$2 for participation. It was well-attended, they said – and the inclusion of musicians at the slam is likely what led to songs and other diversity in this year's journal.

Besides fundraising, marketing the opportunity to submit to the writers and artists along the hallways of

Wando is important. Armed with a deadline of Dec. 30, 2016, the staff of *The Outlet* set about sharing the rules and regulations for getting published. Then came the fun part of diving into the resulting pile of work – larger than usual, thanks to the efforts of the "B Team," responsible for fundraising and public relations.

But as the kids pointed out, it's difficult to pare down such a pile of greatness. Barron noted that the group wasn't sure, at first, how many they would be able to accept.

"We divided stacks into green, red and yellow," Barron explained. "Red for no, green for definitely and yellow for the wait list."

Eventually, though, they found the accepted pieces and sent out congratulatory emails to the artists. A bit of a scramble followed during the few weeks prior to sending *The Outlet* to the printer. But it was an organized scramble, one where no student felt overwhelmed or unimportant.

"I think the work done by the design team was split up beautifully," mused Lacy. "Each section (the different roses) was taken over by a different person. No one was overloaded, and it was a group effort."

Finally, one blissful Friday in May, brand-new copies of *The Outlet* arrived in a brown box at the doorstep of Wando High School. The efforts of not only the staff but of each hardworking artist had come to fruition. And, hopefully, those efforts will be recognized again this coming fall, at the South Carolina Student Press Association Awards, an annual competition culminating with a ceremony in Columbia. *The Outlet* has earned second and third tier honors there for the last few years.

Of course, the students are all hoping for first place honors this year. And after leafing through the most recent issue of *The Outlet*, I share their optimism.





Saving Energy and the Environment

The New Town Hall is Eco-Friendly

By Diane Pauldine

s more people embrace energy efficient technology, "going green" is no longer considered just being hip or part of a niche market. It's a green revolution gaining momentum as the benefits begin to outweigh the upfront costs. And it's not just consumers who want to be good stewards of the environment – it's businesses and municipalities as well. The town of Mount Pleasant is no exception.

Designed by local architect Stubbs Muldrow Herin, Mount Pleasant's new Town Hall took a giant leap toward eco-friendliness. Almost the entire building was designed to save energy and, in the long run, money.

Local architect Sam Herin, Dennis Knight of Whole Building Systems and Mark Uyak of DWG Consulting Engineers were among the group of architects and engineers who worked on the project and who played a key role in creating a state-of-the-art, energy-efficient Town Hall.

The buildings that made up the old Town Hall, part of which was built as a school in the 1960s, provided about 60,000 square feet of space. Town officials asked



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that the new, 92,000-square-foot, three-story building use "the same amount of energy that was used before," Herin explained, adding that "we needed to solve some energy problems without creating comfort problems."

That certainly was a challenge but one SMHa attacked head on.

"The new Town Hall has a high-efficiency building envelope, which offers exterior insulation and a weather barrier," Herin pointed out.

Using passive design strategies, the building also features thermally broken windows and exterior shading that help keep the heat out. The key to this type of design is to take advantage of the local climate and the path of the sun – East to West – Herin explained.

"It's designed so that it doesn't get a lot of direct sun during the warmest times of the year," Herin said. "This helps the building to more easily cool down when it's warm and warm up when it's cold."

There are also LED lights throughout, automated heating/cooling and vacancy sensors installed in most of the rooms. The sensors save energy by automatically turning lights off when rooms are unoccupied.

Knight explained that lights will not automatically turn on when someone enters a room, but sensors can be preset to turn the lights out after the room is empty for a certain amount of time.

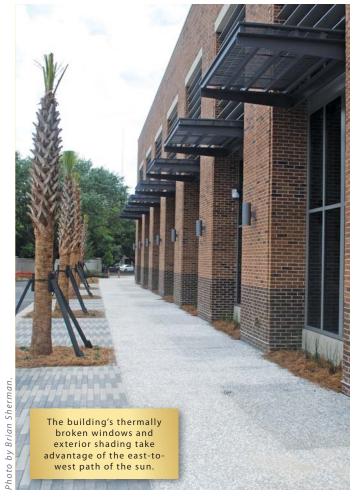
"You have to physically turn on the light when entering, but the system senses when you've been out of the room long enough," Knight said. "The sensors use sound, motion and heat to detect whether a person is in the space or not. Even if someone is asleep, the system senses that you're there."

After reviewing various design options, a decision was made by the town for the new Town Hall to be Energy Star certified, a program of the Environmental Protection Agency that recognizes superior energy efficiency. The EPA provides tools and resources to measure energy use, with a grade of 75 percent out of 100 percent necessary for Energy Star certification.

"Our target for the new Town Hall was 85 percent. There are benchmarks that had to be met to get that label, and we won't know until everything has been turned on for a while if we did it," Herin pointed out in June 2017, as town employees were preparing to move into their new home.

To save time and maintain efficiency, one unique feature of the new Town Hall is its notification system. When a certain area of the building is not meeting performance standards, Knight said, "an alert is sent by text or email from the system itself to let us know there's a problem."

"Whatever the problem is, it's dealt with more quickly.



The point is to keep the building functioning as it was designed and to not let it get out of tune," Herin added.

The building also features CO2 sensors in the highoccupancy areas. None of the windows open, but the air is constantly monitored to ensure comfort and quality.

"The system is designed to use whatever source takes the least amount of energy," Uyak said. "When people aren't in the building, less ventilation is needed. When it's occupied, the ventilation that brings in outside air is back on."

At night, once town employees have left for the day, certain sections of the building are not completely shut down but are "set back," Uyak said.

"It would take too much energy to bring the building back to a comfortable level if you shut it down completely each night. But when people aren't in the building, the ventilation is reduced," he explained.

As Mount Pleasant's new Town Hall approached completion, demand from consumers and government incentives were making it easier and more financially feasible to go green. The new Town Hall did not miss out on the wave of eco-friendliness. It's not only energy-efficient and comfortable but also provides an atmosphere conducive to working, learning and serving the residents of Mount Pleasant.



A Lasting Legacy in Her Hometown

Executive Programs Manager Lauren Sims

By Brian Sherman

laying an important role in a major construction project would certainly engender a significant sense of accomplishment and undoubtedly serve as an impressive resume builder for just about anyone who earns a living in the world of government service.

But for Lauren Sims, her contribution to the completion of Mount Pleasant's new Town Hall meant much more than just a job well done and the probability of continued professional success. Mount Pleasant, after all, is her hometown.

"I'm very proud and excited to work on our Town Hall," said Sims, Mount Pleasant's executive programs manager and project manager for all things related to the 92,000-square-foot building. "This is the community I grew up in and care so much about. For me, it's a dream project. Most people don't get to work on something like this ever. It's wonderful to be able to do this so early in my career."

Sims, just 27 when work on the new Town Hall was finished, originally planned to attend Clemson and study physical or occupational therapy. Instead, she chose to heed the advice of one of her high school teachers at Bishop England, David Held, who had encouraged her to major in Political Science.

"I was interested in government in high school, and I took a freshman Political Science class at Clemson and loved it. That's when I realized that this was what I was



supposed to be studying," she said.

After graduating from Clemson, Sims returned to the Lowcountry for graduate work at the College of Charleston. One of her classes required her to interview a public administrator. She did some research and discovered that Eric DeMoura had earned an undergraduate degree in Political Science and a master's in Public Administration at Clemson – one degree she already had and another she was working toward. Even better, he was the town

administrator of her hometown – Mount Pleasant.

While interviewing him for the paper she had to write, Sims learned that the town had an internship program. Not long after, they got to know each other better when she took a Finance and Budget class that DeMoura taught at the College of Charleston. Later, now on the nonprofit administration track at C of C, she needed some working hours in her quest for a master's in Public Administration. She decided that her future was in municipal work and contacted DeMoura about an internship during the summer of 2012.

"I admire people who work for nonprofits, but I realized I was best suited to serve the community through local government," Sims commented.

That September, she was hired full-time, learning the ropes of town government by working on special projects. By 2013, she and DeMoura were co-managing the construction of the new Town Hall.

DeMoura has never regretted giving her the opportunity to serve her hometown and to play a key role in the construction of the new Town Hall.

"Lauren is a very talented and capable person. She is exceptional in working with people. She's very smart and organized and works hard," he said. "She has the fundamentals and basics to do whatever she wants to do. She's got all the stuff you need to be really successful."

Sims pointed out that her job as day-to-day pointof-contact for the new Town Hall wasn't all that difficult, but "it's just a lot to do." One of her major challenges was moving 250 employees from the town's former collection



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of buildings into the new facility without interrupting the services the town offers to the residents of Mount Pleasant. The transition from old and dilapidated to new and efficient took around a week.

Sims noted that some people said the new Town Hall wasn't a necessity, referring to it as "a grand project." She had a different opinion, insisting that the new building was needed for a variety of good reasons.

"So much heart, thought, time and effort was put into this building. It brought our Town Hall into the 21st century, and it reflects Mount Pleasant," she said.

She said that although she and DeMoura spearheaded

story about the late Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who was in the U.S. Senate for 24 years and also served as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Moynihan had his choice of interns, and most of the applicants were from Ivy League schools. Tim Russert, who attended John Carroll University in Ohio, decided to apply as well and was surprised to receive an internship with Moynihan. He later asked the senator why he chose him over all those who attended prestigious schools.

"These Ivy League kids – what you know, I can't teach them. What you don't know, I can teach you," he told the John Carroll University grad.



Photo by Jenn Cady.

the project, an entire team of town employees helped make things run smoothly from start to finish, especially those in the Purchasing and IT departments.

"Employees in every department helped design their own space," she added.

Sims had been wearing more than one hat in Mount Pleasant government since 2013, so her job with the town didn't go away just because the new Town Hall was complete. She also oversaw strategic planning, government outreach and performance measurements – determining how the town can better use its resources, financial and otherwise, and provide services to Mount Pleasant residents more efficiently.

Concerning his decision to hire Sims as an intern and then as a full-time employee, DeMoura related a

Russert went on to be Moynihan's chief of staff and later the longtime host of "Meet the Press." DeMoura is confident that Sims will continue to grow professionally as well.

"Lauren can be successful in whatever she does. It's my job to put her in a position to succeed," he said.

Despite her young age, by the time the new Town Hall was completed, Sims had already made great strides toward leaving a lasting legacy in her hometown of Mount Pleasant – and she's thankful to have had the opportunity to play a role in creating a building that is expected to serve the town for at least three quarters of a century.

"To be a part of this building is a very exciting and humbling experience," she commented.

"She'll always look at that building and smile about it," DeMoura added. "

A Town-Wide Effort

Designing a User-Friendly Building

By Emily Paschal

ount Pleasant had almost everything: wonderful schools, great shopping, fantastic restaurants. But the town had been lacking in one area – a multifunctional, state-of-the-art Town Hall.

The buildings that comprised Mount Pleasant's Town Hall for the past few decades have been adequate, but, as the sleepy little village grew and expanded into the town it is today, the need for a new and more efficient way to serve its ever-growing population has become apparent. The new Town Hall does that job well, and the 92,000-square-foot building also oozes the history and charm that are unique to Mount Pleasant.

For the first time, all the town's departments are combined into a single unit, and each is equipped with the proper tools to complete its job of operating a vibrant municipality, now and for at least the next 75 years.

How did local officials determine the best way to make the new Town Hall as efficient and user-friendly as possible for administrators, employees, the mayor, Council members and, most important, the general public? This challenge was hurdled through the work of numerous



committees, each with its own area on which to focus, and each tasked with designing a building "by the people, for the people."

Meetings were held to garner opinions and suggestions from the public, department heads were consulted and included on all decisions and committees were formed – such as the Finishes Committee and Furniture Committee – to guarantee that all details would not only contribute to efficiency but would also integrate the charm of the town into the project. In the end, the Town Council realized the need, listened to the opinions of local residents and acted to provide a multifaceted building that caters to each department's needs while also offering a communal building where the public can congregate.

Director of Planning and Development Christiane Farrell emphasized the significance of the public's involvement. Because the Town Hall was going to serve the public, all opinions needed to be heard in order to meet the needs of all residents and town employees. One of the most important aspects of the new building is the flow of the design and the larger and more organized work spaces. Although there are private offices, the majority of the employees will do what they do at work stations.

"This will improve the ability to communicate and work together on projects or issues," Farrell said. "The open, work station setup is more flexible, so, as our needs change, we can move work stations around to adjust. Also, with the open work environment, there is a continuous flow from one department to another. So with Planning, for example, our work area flows right into the Transportation Department section. This is great for us since the two departments work so closely together."

Another area of improvement over the previous Town Hall buildings is the meeting rooms. Before, few conference rooms were available. In the new building, multiple meeting rooms of various sizes were included to take care of the needs of the staff. In addition, the new Town Hall has meeting rooms in the lobby to serve the public.

Department heads were heavily involved in the design of their new quarters. Police Chief Carl Ritchie explained how important it was that administrators were consulted and involved in the design of their new work space.

"The town's leadership recognized that we knew best how a Police Department should be designed for safety, functionality and security," Ritchie commented.

The police headquarters is now equipped with safety components the former building lacked. Such improvements include what is known as a "sally port," an area in the back of the building that allows police officers to bring prisoners into a secure area. In the



past, prisoners were transported through the main headquarters area, exposing other employees to a potentially dangerous situation.

"I am pleased to say the architects and town leadership listened, and we have a Police Department that is secure yet functional and will enhance our agency's ability to protect and serve those in our community," Ritchie commented.

With the completion of the first phase of the Mount Pleasant Town Hall project – the construction of the main building – all those who participated in the committees will see their dreams and visions come to fruition. The construction of the new building was a town-wide effort. When the heartbeat of Mount Pleasant government moved into the new building during the summer of 2017, the town was complete: schools, shopping, restaurants and a Town Hall that was a source of pride for all.



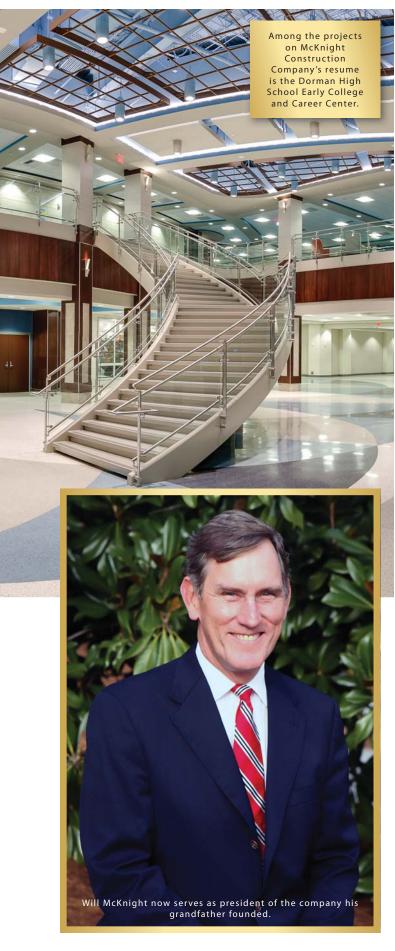
All in the Family

General Contractor McKnight Construction Company

By Brian Sherman

Depression, Mason McKnight Sr. chose a positive perspective, making a living by building homes in and around Augusta, Georgia, and Aiken, South Carolina. Buoyed by the vision and enthusiasm of three more generations of McKnights, the company he started in 1929 is still thriving, though long ago it turned its focus to the commercial side of building.

McKnight Construction Company, Inc., which builds schools, libraries and other government-related projects in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina, served as the general contractor for Mount Pleasant's new Town Hall. Still headquartered in Augusta, its annual revenues in 2016 were near the \$90-million mark, according to the founder's grandson, who now serves as president. Success has not changed the way the company has been



doing business and adapting to the ever-changing world of construction for nearly nine decades.

"We're a family-oriented company," Will McKnight pointed out. "People have been here a long time, and they bring a lot of pride to the company. For example, Tim Rich is the superintendent for the Mount Pleasant Town Hall job, and he has two sons who work with him."

"On every project, we focus on safety, teamwork, efficiency and integrity, ensuring that our customers get the best product in a timely manner," he added.

McKnight's own family has played a monumental role in the company's success as well. His father, Mason McKnight Jr., joined the business in the mid-1950s. Not long after, the company abandoned the residential market.

"Dad built three or four houses and realized he didn't want to stay in that business," said McKnight, a graduate of Georgia Tech. "They went into commercial construction, building along the East Coast, from Virginia to Florida."

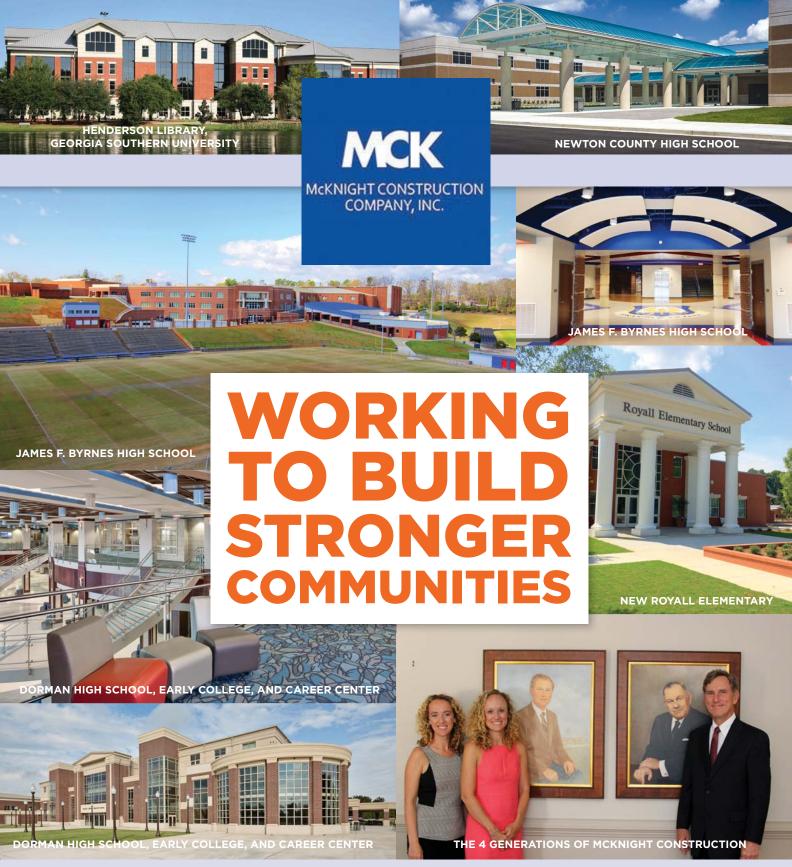
Later, in the 1970s, Will McKnight and his two brothers came on board, and again, the company adapted to the winds of change in the construction business.

"There weren't many shopping centers being built, so we went into the government sector with HUD housing projects," he said. "But when Reagan was elected president, that business conked out, so we went into defense work, as well as schools and municipal work."

It certainly didn't hurt that several military installations were nearby, including Fort Bragg, Fort Gordon, Fort Stewart and Warner Robins Air Force Base. McKnight said 75 percent of the company's work in the 1980s was with the Department of Defense, adding that, by 2008, the DOD work had "played out." That's when McKnight Construction turned mostly to projects for schools and municipalities. Today, 90 percent of the company's business is government work, McKnight said.

Will McKnight's two siblings eventually left to start their own construction companies, but his daughters and their husbands now make up McKnight Construction's fourth generation of family members. Jane Marie Kinsey is the vice president and chief financial officer, while her husband, Joe Kinsey, a civil engineer, is a project manager. Blakely Downs is in marketing, and her husband, Ryan Downs, directs the company's real estate holdings.

In addition to Mount Pleasant's new Town Hall, McKnight Construction has left its mark on the Lowcountry with building projects at Rollings Middle School of the Arts, Alston-Bailey Elementary School, Alston Middle School and Sand Hill Elementary School in Dorchester County. The company is usually working on 10



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job entailed more than simply building the new Town Hall. To keep the town up and running while work on the new building was underway, McKnight had to relocate fiber optic cable, a generator, the data room and electrical services and tear down half of a building so the town could continue to use the other half. When Mount Pleasant employees moved into their new home in July 2017, McKnight remained at the site to raze the two buildings remaining from the

McKnight Construction's

to 15 projects at a time, all in various stages of completion, and, true to his hands-on approach to building, McKnight tries to visit each of those construction sites every

two weeks or so. Weather permitting, he's been keeping up with the Town Hall project by flying into the Mount Pleasant Regional Airport in a single engine plane.

With a total of around 35 employees, McKnight Construction leans heavily on its subcontractors, choosing local companies to work with when possible.

"We don't have that many people working for us, so we sub a lot of our work," he explained. "We have a good relationship with our subs. We nurture them, and we match up the best one for the job so our clients are better served."

"The Mount Pleasant Town Hall project was a very

long process, working with the architect and the town to make sure we had the best subs and got local people involved," he added. "We tried to get local people to bid on the project. That was one of the goals of the town – to use local, qualified subcontractors. It took six to eight months to develop our workforce and the pricing to fit with what the town wanted and to be competitive."

old Town Hall complex, build a park and a new parking lot and install the pad for what eventually will be the new gymnasium.



And what's so special about the new Town Hall, according to the man who runs the company that built it?

"The flow of the building. The people of Mount Pleasant will find it to be a lot more convenient, and the Police Department and business departments will all be under one roof. All the town's services will be in one place," he concluded.

Every Job Has Its Complexities

Project Manager Brooks Blumenthal

By Brian Sherman



Left to right: Matt Farrell of Allston Farrell Construction; Project Manager Brooks Blumenthal; and Field Project Manager Bryce Howeie.

lmost every Wednesday for more than two years, Brooks Blumenthal arrived at the building site of Mount Pleasant's new Town Hall, making sure his own employees and a collection of hand-picked subcontractors were combining their considerable talent and experience to create a state-of-the-art home for the town's residents and employees.

And though Blumenthal, the project manager for general contractor McKnight Construction Company, was

in charge of all things related to the building process, he never showed up wearing a suit or dress shoes.

"In our company, you can call me a laborer," he commented. "I'll sweep the parking lot if that's what needs to be done. I don't mind getting dirty. I wouldn't ask someone to do something that I wouldn't do myself, and I take pride in that."

Just 36 years old when Mount Pleasant's Town Hall was completed, Blumenthal had been with



The windows at the front of Town Hall open into the main courtroom.

McKnight since January 2004, when he graduated from Georgia Southern University with a degree in Building Construction and Contracting. The learning process got underway immediately.

"McKnight starts people in the field, on the front lines," he explained. "The real education begins on the job."

For Blumenthal, that education got underway at Fort Benning, where his job was to help build the passenger processing facility and do some work on the chapel. From there, he returned to Statesboro, home of Georgia Southern, where McKnight was renovating the library, adding 104,000 square feet of space and refurbishing four floors of the building. The project had been bid by Blumenthal's brother, Bobby, who worked for McKnight Construction at the time, and Brooks Blumenthal eventually served as project superintendent.

The library was originally built by McKnight Construction in 1972.

Blumenthal, a native of Augusta, where McKnight has its headquarters, pointed out that as one of three full-time project managers, he is responsible for bidding all his

jobs. Unlike many construction companies, McKnight, a family-owned company that operates like a family, doesn't have full-time estimators.

"Our Estimating Department is comprised of our project managers. We all wear many hats, from estimating to project management, which makes our company unique," he stated.

While Mount Pleasant's Town Hall was under construction, Blumenthal was managing several projects, including a middle school and an elementary school in Atlanta; renovating Coastal Carolina University's Brooks Stadium in Conway, South Carolina; and Rollings Middle School of the Arts in Dorchester County. He had recently put the finishing touches on three other schools in the Summerville area: Sand Hill Elementary, Alston-Bailey Elementary and Alston Middle.

Blumenthal pointed out that many of the subcontractors who helped build Mount Pleasant's Town Hall are local, based either in Mount Pleasant, Charleston or other nearby locations. He added that being from out of town can be an advantage for a general contractor. For

example, McKnight was able to use resources from outside the Lowcountry when necessary.

"The building industry is booming here. Everyone is busy, and that's good for business," he explained. "A masonry crew is tough to find here because the local

manpower pool is so busy. Prior to bidding the Town Hall, I called a dozen or so site work contractors, and they said they didn't have the manpower to perform the work due to their current workload."

As a result, McKnight Construction handled the concrete and masonry work, which was helpful, Blumenthal said, to get the job started.

"It got us out of the ground quickly. We weren't relying on others," he said.

Blumenthal said the biggest challenge he faced in the Town Hall building process was finding and moving existing underground phone and data lines and handling that process without interrupting communications for town of Mount Pleasant employees - or any other businesses or residents in the area.

The project manager pointed out that he has learned over the years that every job is unique and that each project has its own challenges.

"I used to say that construction is construction, that ultimately it's concrete, sheetrock and steel," he said. "But every job has its complexities. Every job is important to the owner in a special way. We take as much pride in this job as in anything we do."

"From our perspective, it's a good looking building with a great design. The folks with roots here take pride in their town. I can only imagine the pride they take in their government facilities. That's special for me," he added.

Blumenthal pointed out that part of the success of the project was the result of everyone who was involved doing their job.

"The subcontractors teamed well together, and the architect and the town were always responsive," he said.

When Mount Pleasant's Town Hall was completed, McKnight Construction, under the direction of Blumenthal, went to work tearing down Building A,

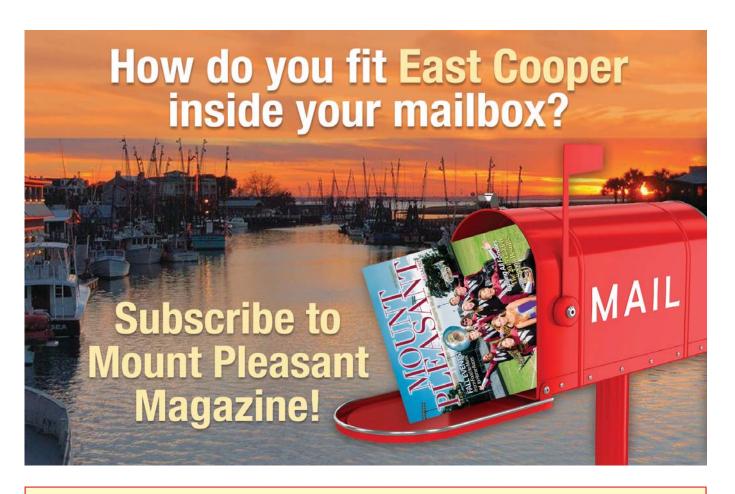
Building D, the old gymnasium and the former police station to make room for a park, a new gymnasium and additional parking.

Was he going to miss visiting Mount Pleasant every Wednesday?



"I hope I don't leave. I hope we have another project going on here. I like to visit new places. I just don't know where those places are going to be," he said.

"What's not to like about Mount Pleasant," he concluded. "It's on the coast, and this area is the culinary capital of the world." TH



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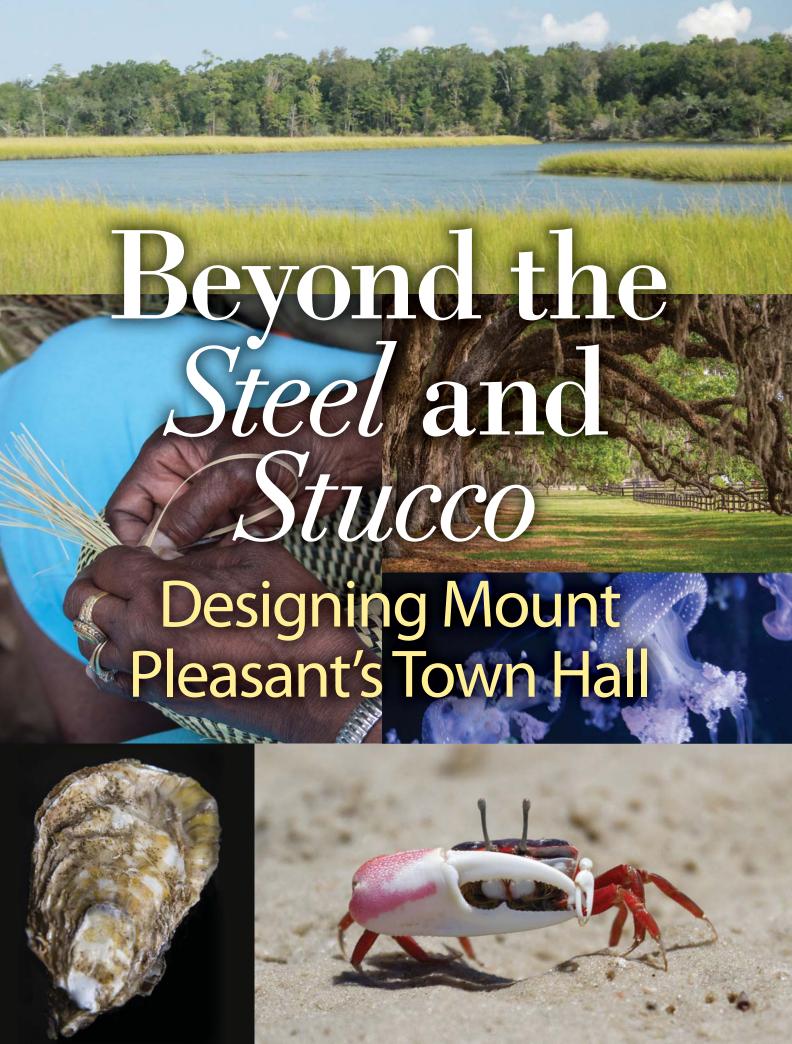
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Andrea Kuhfuss and Katherine Fishburne worked with the town to deliver a one-of-a-kind structure – Mount Pleasant's new Town Hall.

BY KALENE MCCORT

he town of Mount Pleasant has a historical lineage that shines brighter than the luminescence of an oyster shell under the midday sun. For centuries, it has served as a place where families can grow, agriculture can thrive and community can flourish. This plot of land overlooking the Cooper River has withstood hurricanes, battles and floods. It has grown in size, economy and stature. Now, the legacy of sweetgrass baskets, indigo, cotton fields and Shem Creek shrimp will live on in a newly developed Town Hall – 92,000 square feet of carefully crafted construction, whose charm reflects the very essence of this coastal community we call home.

Katherine Fishburne and Andrea Kuhfuss, the interior design duo behind the stunning structure, found the Lowcountry – with its marshlands and towering moss-covered trees – to be the essential muse. They worked with the town to deliver a one-of-a-kind structure, and the end

result was a building of beauty, character and understated elegance.

"I love the process of seeing an idea go from initial plans and paper to reality," said Fishburne, who spent her childhood weekends roaming construction sites in Hilton Head Island with her builder dad, her curiosity sparked with each hammer's slam.

Starting in 2013, Fishburne and Kuhfuss lived and breathed this massive project. Long nights spent in the studio sketching out digital renderings, extensive meetings with furniture distributers and numerous construction-site strolls, tinged by airborne sawdust and the distinct sound of saws meeting planks, dominated their days. For these two ambitious visionaries, every minute was fueled by unrelenting bursts of creativity and inspiration.

"Walking into that lobby and seeing that high ceiling is a moment I'll never forget," said Fishburne. "It's satisfying

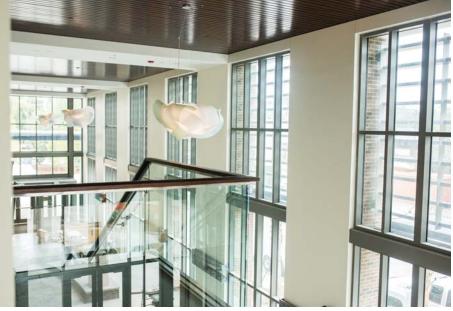


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to know we helped create a space which will help the town grow."

Wallpaper that resembles the texture and shades of sweetgrass — raised strips of gold and brown — wraps around walls as if to offer a hug. Tabby, a type of concrete consisting of crushed oyster shells, sand and ash,

the high ceiling. The colors and shape of these oversized orbs give an artistic pulse to the entire structure. Originally modeled after the shape of jellyfish, they also could be viewed as a free form interpretation of crashing waves or a rippled creek. At second glance, they take on the



Grand light fixtures, modeled after the shape of jellyfish, dangle from the high ceilings.

can be found in both circular-shaped courtrooms, behind where the judge or members of the Town Council sit. This clever nod to the sea life that fills our waterways provides texture and an undeniable gleam. Small flecks of shell particles provide a natural mosaic, which could easily be discovered on old church ruins found at the end of a dirt road. Sunlight seeps through large rectangular windows, giving the space a crisp, clean ambience.

"We wanted everything to have that organic feel," said Fishburne. "From the color palette we chose to the materials we used, it all aligns with the natural beauty of Mount Pleasant."

The thought-out details – a nod to the lushness of the South – will not be lost on visitors. Grand light fixtures, stunning entanglements of aqua, pearl and green, dangle from

muted, smooth shades and texture of sea glass and become an oversized version of something you could find on the shore of Sullivan's Island or Isle of Palms.

Even shades of paint throughout the new Town Hall were chosen for their uncanny resemblance to the hue of pluff mud – a substance that cushions our riverbanks and appears at low tide, sometimes acting as a canvas for delicate fiddler crabs to etch out designs of their very own.

"Andrea and I were allowed to be progressive in our furniture selections and various design aspects," said Fishburne. "We've fused together both traditional and contemporary influences, creating a Modern Transitional style of design. It was a priority to create a building that was safe, secure and beautiful at the same time."

From making metal detectors a subtle yet cohesive part of the overall design to guaranteeing the Police Department was both functional and

are not in use, and the lights dim accordingly.

"To be a part of such an important project means a lot to me,



Tabby, a type of concrete consisting of crushed oyster shells, sand and ash, can be found in both courtrooms, while the carpet and wallpaper resemble shades of sweetgrass.

aesthetically pleasing, much thought went into keeping each corner and hallway warm and engaging. In addition to Town Hall being easy on the eyes, it is also easy on the Earth's resources. The building is outfitted with sensors to monitor when rooms especially being a South Carolina native," said Kuhfuss. "I love shaping and transforming our local communities. There is a complexity in designing public spaces. You have to understand how the spaces need to function and respond to both the







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input and expectations of those involved in the process."

Clean lines take center stage at Mount Pleasant's Town Hall. Considerate of all their visitors, the town even incorporated a mother's lounge within the walls of this architectural wonder. The environment is the antithesis of cold and sterile and possesses the allure of an arts center.

"I really love the volume and shape of the large courtroom," said Kuhfuss. "It is an important space and it is unique in its shape. I also am overall very pleased with the variety of flexible work environments we were able to create. When employees have choices about where and how they work, they are happier and healthier. Adaptability in the workplace is a huge trend and it really can have a big impact."

In addition to the grand spaces and inviting corners that can be found within the building, careful planning was put into the landscaping and the Town Hall's outdoor spaces – pockets of green that summon birds, butterflies and various other creatures. Visitors have access to a park filled with native trees and sitting areas – ideal places to sip sweet tea, read or simply take in the natural surroundings. A rooftop terrace on the top of the building gives way to views of skylines and the ever-iconic Ravenel Bridge.

"To know this building will be here for decades is such a reward in itself," said Fishburne. "It will be so cool to have the opportunity to one day take my children here and tell them, 'Mom was a part of all of this."

From the way the rotunda meets the rest of the building to the distinguished columns that offer support and a certain grandness, the finished product truly surpassed expectations. Beyond the steel and stucco, this building is one with immense heart – a testament to the resilient and spirited individuals who work each day for the greater good of the town and its citizens. With a sense of transparency and natural flow, the open doors of Mount Pleasant's Town Hall ushered in a Southern breeze and, with it, a new era in our diverse landscape



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Connecting the Past and the Present

The Town Hall History Room

BY KALENE MCCORT

alking into Brockington & Associates:
Cultural Resources Consulting, I was immediately struck by the amount of long-lost historic remains lining the shelves. Remnants of a marmalade jar, fragments of turn-of-the-century pottery and vintage tobacco pipes were also found in this epicenter of nostalgia. Blueprints of upcoming projects were pinned on walls, spiraled binders resided in well-filled bookcases and there seemed to be a great rhythm within the building – one that carried the ancestral song of yesteryear.

"Ultimately, we are storytellers," said Carol Poplin, the exhibit planner who was responsible for the many intricate displays and artifacts that reside within Mount Pleasant's Town Hall. "Early on, people have felt the need to leave their mark and connect."

Upon entering Town Hall, a stunning architectural structure complete with columns and a rotunda, visitors can explore engaging displays that give a look back to days gone by. From the muddy banks of Shem Creek to the cotton fields of Boone Hall Plantation, each diverse piece of the Mount Pleasant community is showcased within these walls. Nods to the Old Village and the native marsh-dwelling creatures can be found throughout the 92,000





square feet, providing engaging content at every turn.

"It was very important for us to keep it decorative but informative at the same time," said Poplin. "It was equally as important to involve the people whose stories we were going to tell."

In a sense, the new Town Hall is a living, breathing time capsule – one that will continue to evolve in the coming years. From the altering impact of Hurricane Hugo to the industrial boom of the 21st century, visitors gain knowledge of milestones that helped shape the Mount Pleasant we know today.

Weavings of sweetgrass, perhaps the most iconic craft associated with this region, can be found along with informational text that tells the back story behind the baskets and of some of the artisans who perfected this art form.

"South Carolina is filled with so many historical sites," said Poplin, who in the past has taken shovel to dirt near Palmetto Bluff and Rivertowne to uncover fancy cutlery and sewing needles of former plantation owners. "It's rewarding when you discover a really exciting part of the great story you are trying to tell about the site."

One discovery that is a part of Town Hall is Wando pottery. Crafted by American Indians living near the Wando River 1,200 years ago, these recovered shards could possibly have once been a part of ceremonial bowls or

drinking jugs. Made by tempering clay with limestone, they can be found only around the Wando. Some pieces contain imprinted designs thought to be the result of pressing cord and fabric onto the surface of the wet clay.

The town's very first fire pumper, dating back to the 1880s, is also on display. Originally horse-drawn, folks can get an up-close look at this well-assembled machine that saved the lives of many. With its crimson color and four large yellow wheels, it possesses just as much whimsy now as it did functionality all those years ago.

While the first floor is filled with charming displays chronicling the town's journey, the real treasure can be found a floor up, in the History Room. While small in size, the objects it holds tell a bigger story. The centerpiece of the room, which harks back to a simpler time of sewing circles, is most definitely the Dupré Quilt. Colorful patches make up a tapestry of gratitude. The makers of this bright, detailed quilt, composed of 30 eye-catching squares, went by the name "The Ernest Workers.

While of different backgrounds and faiths, their love and appreciation for their local physician, Dr. John Dupré, tied them together.

Each square of the quilt displays the stitched names or initials of the women behind the artistry. Scatterings of yellow stars, crescent moons, watering pots, fish, delicate flowers and blooming roses dance within the intricate



patchwork. You can also find symbols that have significance to the very region where this masterpiece was crafted. One square displays the front of The Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church. The various swatches of fabric, linked together by elaborate embroidery, have become so much more than an artistic expression of a group of thankful women. It's a significant piece of Mount Pleasant's history, one that pays homage to one citizen that made a difference in the lives of many.

Dr. John Young Dupré, a descendant of a Huguenot family, was born in 1827. His roots in

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Mount Pleasant ran deep. His grandfather was James Hibben, a man responsible for founding Mount Pleasant in 1803. Dupré served as an assistant surgeon in the Confederacy. He later would treat patients in a small, modest office located on the same plot of land as his home at the intersection of Bennett and Hibben. A man of strong faith, he served as an elder in The Presbyterian Church, always offering his home to traveling preachers looking for a comfortable bed and warm meal.

The Dupré quilt has actually been on quite a tour, traveling the country throughout the years, showing up at various folk art exhibits. It had a brief stint at The Mount Pleasant Library and in 1985 was displayed at The Charleston Museum. It hung in The University of South Carolina's McKissick Museum and now has returned to its rightful place of origin.

The History Room is a great resource for those looking to get the back story on some of Mount Pleasant's most important events. Whether you want to check out a vintage map or browse digital archives on the computer in the center of the room, a trip to this pocket of knowledge will not disappoint.

"As a culture, we can be very transient," said Poplin.

"People seek out that ability to connect to their new space, and they truly appreciate those who came before them."

Streets found throughout Mount Pleasant don the names of some of the town's most esteemed innovators and influencers. At Mount Pleasant's Town Hall, guests can get a sense of just who these pioneers were.

"It's always rewarding to see people in a space engaging with the materials you've presented," said Poplin, who looked forward to sharing the exhibits with everyone from curious students on a field trip to new residents eager to dive into the history of Mount Pleasant. "I find joy in helping people connect the past to the present."

Sewee Indians, Gullah-Geechee and English settlers all

contributed to the growth of Mount Pleasant. Culinary traditions and art are ingrained in this land of palm trees and boiled peanuts. Like Confederate jasmine winding up a rod iron gate, Mount Pleasant is ever thriving. From the gentle crack of an oyster shell to the cheerful hymn of a sandpiper, many elements meld together to contribute to the soundtrack of Mount Pleasant.













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A Model Student

Wando Student Helped Bring Town Hall to Life

BY DIANE PAULDINE

f a picture really is worth a thousand words, imagine how many words are conveyed from an intricately designed 3-D model. One talented Wando High School graduate was given the opportunity to make such a model of the new Mount Pleasant Town Hall – and she did not disappoint.

Harrison Novak, a junior at Clemson when the new building was completed, was double majoring in her senior year at Wando: Art and Architecture, and Math, Science



Harrison Novak was a student at Wando High School when she built the model of the new Town Hall.

of creating a scaled site model of the much-anticipated project. With only drawings for reference, Novak worked for three months to complete the job, using materials provided by SMHa.

"I would leave school after last block and go work on the model for four hours Monday through Thursday," Novak said. "I had a desk all set up at SMHa, with a computer behind me and all the tools and gadgets to use."

Novak said the intern program offered at Wando was extremely beneficial, and she felt fortunate to have been a part of it.

"You really get the experience of working a real job and



and Engineering. Through the school's intern program, she had the opportunity to work at Stubbs Muldrow Herin, the architectural firm that designed the new Town Hall. As one of her first assignments, she was given the task

learning the proper etiquette that goes with that," she said.

The model was displayed at the old Town Hall beginning in early 2015. As construction of the new building neared completion, Novak said it was great to see

the project come to life.

"It's very rewarding to see it through from beginning to end," she said. "The work I did was tedious, and there were times I thought my fingers would fall off, but it's all worthwhile once you see the finished product."

Novak said she didn't face too many challenges along the way, with a few exceptions.

"I had never really done anything with landscaping before, but the people I worked with at SMHa were incredibly helpful, offering advice, ideas and techniques," she added. "Also, to make a circular drum for the model, I learned how to create a curve, bending wood. That was complicated."

She said while it's challenging, architecture is very satisfying work.

"Making sure the windows are aligned and properly placed can be tough. The whole thing is a big issue, but somehow you work it out, and seeing how it all comes together is wonderful."

The finished model impressed even the most seasoned architects.

Sam Herin, one of the partners at SMHa, said Novak surprised everyone with her innate ability to create a detailed model from nothing but architectural drawings.



Creating the circular facade using wood was one of many challenges Novak faced in creating the model of the new Town Hall.

"We gave her a stack of drawings and told her to start on one piece. Next time I went to check her progress, we figured she would still be working on the same piece, but she was beyond it," Herin said. "She's an amazing lady with a lot of talent. She did an excellent job."

"It's kind of funny," she said. "I studied engineering at Wando and was accepted at Clemson for engineering, but, once there, I switched to architecture because I loved it so much. I may want to do it for the rest of my life."



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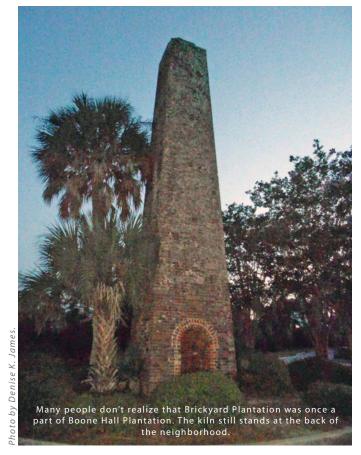
BY DIANE PAULDINE

ven with its modern thermal windows and high-tech design, the new Mount Pleasant Town Hall gives a nostalgic nod to the Lowcountry's past, mixing 21st century architecture with 19th century technique. Before the first plans were drawn, town officials looked to the community and at its history for ideas on the appearance of the new building, down to the color of the brick.

A single brick displayed on an architect's desk for over 25 years helped seal the deal. Lauren Sims, executive programs manager for the town of Mount Pleasant, gave credit to Sam Herin, architect at Stubbs Muldrow Herin.

"It was his idea," she said. "We knew we needed to select a brick color for the building anyway, but one day Sam came to a meeting with a brick and told us how he acquired it and that it was actually made in Mount Pleasant. He offered to get the brick color matched and





the decision was made."

Sims said the new Town Hall is the physical representation of everything that makes up the community.

"It belongs to the community, and there was no question that this building would be designed in such a way that honored that," Sims said.

With the help of SMHa, the brick color that was chosen was a perfect fit. The color and style of bricks used by the town match the very bricks once manufactured on Boone Hall Plantation almost 200 years ago.

In 1811, Boone Hall was bought by brothers John and Henry Horlbeck. Having been in the construction industry and with the plantation located on a massive red clay deposit, it seemed an ideal place to start a new venture manufacturing bricks.

Michael Hedden, education and communications coordinator at Boone Hall Plantation, said the brickyard was started a few years after the Horlbeck brothers bought the property and operated throughout the 19th century. Later known as the Horlbeck Brick and Tile Company, it consisted of several kilns, drying areas, a cistern and a commissary.

Many people don't realize that Brickyard Plantation was once a part of Boone Hall Plantation and that "there's still a kiln standing in the very back of the neighborhood today," Hedden said.

To make the bricks back then, clay was dug out of the ground, pressed into molds and set out in the sun to dry.

"The molds would then be placed into a kiln to harden," Hedden said.

The brickyard turned into a major enterprise, and, by 1850, approximately 4 million bricks a year were being produced. For about 70 years, these Boone Hall bricks were used in many well-known Charleston structures, including St. John's Lutheran Church and St. Stephen's Chapel. A portion of Fort Sumter is also made from those

bricks, as well as sections of the main house and slave cabins at Boone Hall.

For his part, Herin said he got the brick when St. John's Lutheran Church was being renovated.

"The brick was knocked off the building's steeple as a result of damage done by Hurricane Hugo," he said. "I picked it up off the ground because the stucco ogee detailing on that brick caught my eye. You simply don't see that type of handwork anymore."

Little did Herin know that a brick he picked up so long ago would guide him on a design many years later.

Learning how bricks were made locally years ago might surprise many people. Sims said the "really cool part about this story to me is that it wasn't enough to just match the color of the one brick Sam happened to have. They took it to a whole new level and researched how the bricks were made here."

At that time, bricks were never uniform in color because the bricks closest to the heat source in the kiln were darker than the ones furthest away.

"When bricks are produced today," Sims said, "they can make them all uniform in color, but we chose not to have that."

Instead, as a tribute to Mount Pleasant's past, the bricks vary in color.

"So the bricks we ended up using not only match the color of the ones historically produced in town, but they also honor the historic production method," Sims said.

She added that town officials knew from the start that the design of the new Town Hall had to capture and feature the elements of Mount Pleasant's history and future.

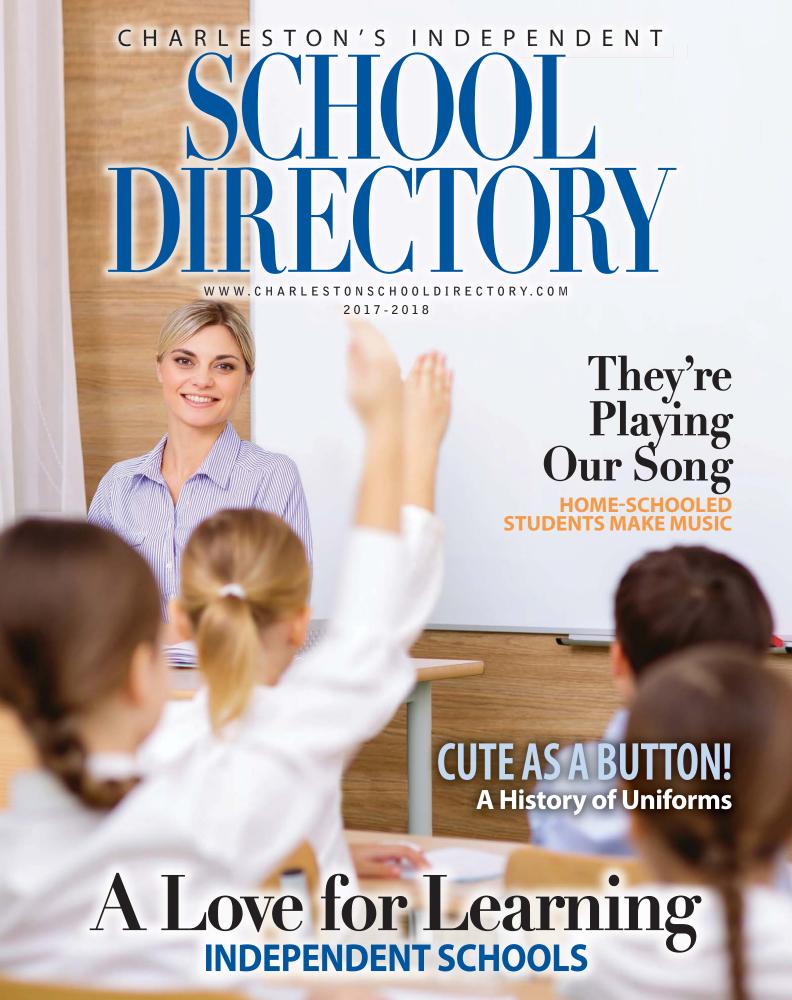
"Town Council took feedback from the community that this building should reflect Mount Pleasant – who we are, our values, our history, our culture and our natural amenities. It had to not only 'fit' Mount Pleasant, but, more importantly, it also had

to reflect Mount Pleasant," Sims said.

"I've been amazed at all the ways the design team included and featured local elements. The architectural design, the interior colors and finishes that represent the saltwater marshes, sweetgrass and oyster beds, the landscaping – the list goes on," she concluded. "But the story about the exterior brick for the building is probably my favorite story to tell."







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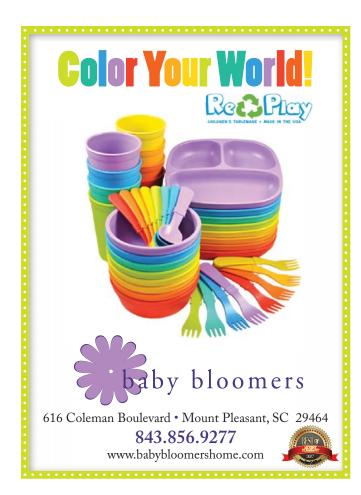
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Back to School Style A HISTORY OF THE UNIFORM

ack to school: three simple words that have the power to provoke an immediate sense of dread and anxiety in parent and child alike. Buying books, pencils, paper, binders, book bags, and, of course, finding the perfect outfit are part of the first day of the brand-new year. Every parent and child knows the routine rush as summer

BY EMILY PASCHAL

comes to a close, but for those who

attend schools with a required school uniform, preparing for the new semester might not be as daunting.

School uniforms have become a popular phenomenon in the United States, particularly in the last two decades, but they are still a controversial topic. Some argue that mandating all students to dress alike in traditional clothing deprives them of individuality and self-expression, while others claim that they provide a level playing ground for all students to thrive, allowing them to focus on academic success.

Although the first recorded school uniforms were worn in 13th century England, modern uniforms draw influence from the 16th century. Contrary to popular belief, the tradition of the school uniform was born in charity schools like Christ's Hospital Boarding School in Great Britain, which utilized donations from the public to provide a uniform of blue cloaks and yellow stockings for their underprivileged students. This sparked the trend of required school uniforms in all educational institutions, but the practice became most prominent in the private arena. Most of the original uniforms, including those at Christ's Hospital Boarding School, strongly resembled the attire of the clergy. Such traditional clothing, still mandatory in most modern British schools, has been incorporated into our own scholastic culture.

Until the end of the 1980s, school uniforms in the United States were traditionally reserved for private schools. However, in 1987, this all changed when public school districts in Maryland and Washington, D.C., began to experiment with mandatory dress codes. In the 1990s, President Bill Clinton and his administration enthusiastically promoted the introduction of the school uniform to all public school districts across the nation as a means to introduce law and order in the classrooms by eliminating economic factors and endorsing academics. In one of his speeches in 1996, the president stated: "If it means that the schoolrooms will be more orderly and more disciplined and that our young people will learn to evaluate themselves by what they are on the inside, instead of what



they're wearing on the outside, then our public schools should be able to require their students to wear uniforms."

By the end of the 1990s, the Long Beach, California, school district required by law that all public schools establish a formal school uniform by which all students would abide. After its first year with mandated uniforms was successful, other states began indoctrinating school uniforms into their own educational systems. School uniforms have become common in private and public schools alike. Different schools approach the concept with different opinions in regards to the importance of a uniform dress code. Susan Splendido, principal of Christ Our King School in Mount Pleasant, stated: "Catholic school administrators feel strongly that wearing a uniform decreases an element of social pressure, allowing kids to focus academically. We actually see a difference in the classroom atmosphere on TAG Days (out of uniform days). We also feel strongly that wearing uniforms helps the students grow and mature from



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within because they are not worrying as much about what they look like on the outside."

Despite their prevalence in U.S. school systems, many schools have chosen to refrain from establishing a school uniform, fearing that they will impose on each student's sense of individuality. Many believe that learning to appropriately dress themselves at a young age will prepare them for their futures. Erik Kreutner, head of school at Mason Preparatory School in Charleston, pointed out: "Part of our mission is to cultivate respect, integrity and personal responsibility in our students. We believe that part of developing personal responsibility is having our students choose clothing for school that is appropriate and conforms to our school dress code while also allowing them to express their individuality. Most of our students will not go on to wear daily uniforms in their adult lives and will need to dress themselves appropriately for their career. By requiring our students to wear school-branded uniforms on some days and non-uniform clothing on others, we believe we provide our families with a nice balance."

The school uniform trend seems to be a rather permanent aspect of our educational system. The traditional, conservative outfits are indicative of an academic setting and will most likely remain. As fashion and culture have changed and evolved, the basic pieces of the school uniform



have stayed the same nationwide.

School uniforms are still a highly debated topic amongst adults, but how do the children feel about them? After all, they are the ones who are directly affected. Rising eighth grader at Christ Our King School, Hannah Lewis, commented: "Uniforms designate equality throughout Christ Our King-Stella Maris School. When every student has matching uniforms, students can be closer to forming a tight bond and relating to each other more. They prevent bullying throughout our school because there is almost no judging. Students can focus more on the real purpose for school, which is learning, instead of focusing on whose outfit is better looking."



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BY ANNE TOOLE

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BY SAM CARROLL

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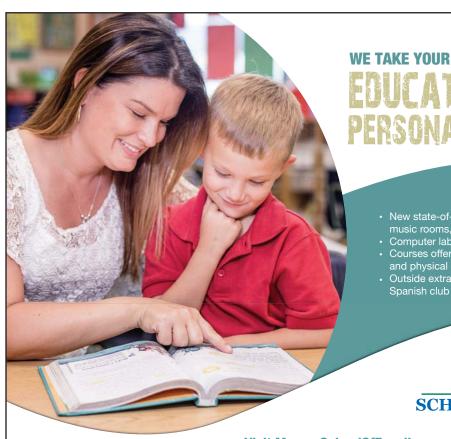
That is what Meyers School of Excellence is all about. Located in Goose Creek, Mevers School of Excellence is a brand-new school accepting applications for students in grades K-6, with plans to include grades 7 and 8. Founded by the Berkeley Charter Education Association, through the generous contribution of Sonny Mevers, the school offers parents and students a safe and inspiring atmosphere with a variety of core, elective, gifted and extracurricular classes and activities that focus on individual growth. Each student receives a personalized learning plan that speaks to their strengths, weaknesses and growth opportunities.

Teachers and parents monitor their students' progress to ensure that everyone is involved in the process and students feel confident and supported. Computer labs, iPads and Smart Boards in each classroom are implemented to target students' specific needs, including students with special needs.

At Mevers, we know your child can learn beyond the core math, science, social studies, language arts and reading classes, which is why we offer courses in art, music, technology, foreign language, physical education and outside extracurricular activities such as sports, art, band, Spanish club and many others.

Every student learns differently and deserves a unique learning experience tailored to their needs. At Mevers School of Excellence, we treat your child's education personally, knowing that their excellence is our success.

To learn more, visit www.MeversSchoolofExcellence.org or call 843-872-9760.



WE TAKE YOUR CHILD'S

Every student deserves to be treated as an individual. Our personal learning plans speak to our students' strengths, weaknesses and growth opportunities ... Start your child on the path to greatness!

WHY CHOOSE US?

- New state-of-the-art school will be equipped with art rooms, music rooms, science labs and athletic fields Computer labs, iPads and Smart Boards in each classroom
- Courses offered in art, music, technology, foreign language and physical education
 Outside extracurricular activities such as sports, art, band,
- Spanish club and many others



Visit MeversSchoolOfExcellence.org for more information or to apply!

Kids Leave with a Solid Foundation

COASTAL CHRISTIAN PREP

ith a mission to assist parents in raising children to reach their potential – emotionally, spiritually, academically and physically – Coastal Christian Prep works hard to prepare its students for a lifetime of success. Originally started as First Baptist Church School in 1953,

BY DIANE PAULDINE

the mission was to serve the families of the church. Once only a preschool

and elementary program, the school has now expanded to a fully accredited institution, offering both K-12 education and early childhood K2-K5 programs.

David Piccolo, head of school, said as the congregation and school grew, a decision was made to update the name to Coastal Christian Prep.

"There were different churches that students were attending and different denominations represented, so the name was changed to reflect that," he said.

Piccolo is in his 38th year in education, 24 of which were spent teaching in public schools.

"This is my third private ministry school, and we have

something very special here. Being a smaller school, we're really able to give individual attention to each student," Piccolo said.

It's not just in the classroom where students have an advantage.

"At the larger schools, a lot of kids can't play sports for the school teams because there are so many students," Piccolo said. "If kids come here, they probably play. We can also really assist and work with them personally, and there's a lot of value in that."

In a quickly-changing world, Piccolo said the school tries to help create a whole student by offering a nurturing, Christian environment.

"Every class we teach is Kingdom based," he said. "Kids leave here with a solid foundation, able to move on and do remarkable things."

For more information about Coastal Christian Prep, visit www.coastalchristian.org.

COASTAL CHRISTIAN



PREPARATORY SCHOOL

AdvancED

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW CURRICULUM WITH A MISSION FOCUS

Our mission at Coastal Christian Preparatory School is to assist parents in raising children to their God-given potential emotionally, spiritually, academically and physically. This balanced approach gives students a foundation for lifelong success.

- BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW CURRICULUM
- SMALL CLASSES WITH FAMILY ATMOSPHERE
- ADVANCED AND SCISA ACCREDITED
- AP, Honors, College Prep and Dual Credit courses available
- GRACE PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS WITH DIFFERENT LEARNING STYLES
- Mission and Service Projects integrated within our curriculum
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Where Every Student Can Thrive

MASON PREPARATORY SCHOOL

cademics, involvement and citizenship are characteristics that are emphasized at Mason Preparatory School. Mason Prep cultivates a vibrant learning environment for 300 students between kindergarten and eighth grade that prepares them for future

BY EMILY PASCHAL

academic journeys and instills values of community citizenship. The

dedication and passion of the educators and administrators have a positive impact on students as they grow during their time at Mason Prep and in the years to follow.

"Our size allows us to know the children as individuals and help them identify and cultivate their strengths," commented Head of School Erik Kreutner. "All of our students are known and loved."

Community service and citizenship are major components of the school's mission statement. To put students in touch with issues facing their community, each grade participates in an annual service project. This past year, the seventh graders learned about hunger, a plight that affects not only the United States but also the world. They studied and discussed

how hunger can exist in a country that produces so much food and brainstormed different ways to help. They hosted a canned food drive at the school and volunteered at various service organizations such as "I Heart Hungry Kids" and the Lowcountry Food Bank.

Mason Prep understands that introducing children to community service and acts of selflessness at a young age fosters their commitment to service and citizenship.

Along with citizenship and service, Mason Prep inspires students to be well-rounded individuals. The school offers a variety of activities, including developmental and interscholastic sports, chess, art, karate, and math and science programs. Each child is given the opportunity to explore his or her interests and encouraged to try new activities.

Mason Prep's commitment to academics, citizenship and individual interests provides an environment where every student can thrive.

To learn more, visit www.masonprep.org or call 843-723-0664.



MASON



Curious Students, Involved Citizens, Happy Kids

Educating students in a supportive, nurturing environment which cultivates respect, integrity and character.

GRADES 5K - 8

We invite you to visit, ask questions, and learn more about Mason Prep.

LYNN KORNYA, Director of Admissions | 843.805.6015 | KORNYAL@MASONPREP.ORG |

The **Secret**behind teaching students who learn differently is to teach differently.



TRIDENT ACADEMY

Where Bright Minds Find Bright Futures

Trident Academy
has educated students
with learning differences
since 1972.

Now accepting applications for grades K-12

843.884.7046 | TridentAcademy.com

Transforming Lives TRIDENT ACADEMY

hat started as a Saturday-only tutorial program in a room in a Mount Pleasant church has grown to serve hundreds of Lowcountry families since its inception as a school in 1972. In the early days, local families worked alongside medical experts and specialists such as Dr.

BY SHELBY DAVIS

Lucia Karnes, who studied with the "father of dyslexia," Dr. Samuel T.

Orton, to develop curriculum.

Now, as one of only 13 accredited Orton-Gillingham schools in the country, Trident Academy strives to create a space where students who learn differently can thrive together. With curriculum catering to those with everything from dyslexia and dysgraphia to dyscalculia and ADHD, Trident Academy has achieved the standard in multi-sensory education.

The primary goal at Trident Academy is to give students the tools they need to return to conventional learning environments. This includes creating specialized individualized programs for each student that incorporate audio, visual and kinesthetic teaching tools and technology to ensure that students are learning the way that is most beneficial to them.

Trident Academy's missions statement — "Through individualized, multisensory and research-based teaching approaches, Trident Academy transforms the lives of cognitively capable K-12 children diagnosed with learning differences" — is carried out every day by providing a space for kids to gain confidence in school and in life. Their hands-on comprehensive curriculum, partnered with a hardworking and nurturing staff, has propelled students toward success for decades.

"Trident Academy is one of Mount Pleasant's best kept secrets," said Head of School Betsy Fanning.

"Nestled in the middle of two neighborhoods, we strive each day to help really bright students who struggle in traditional learning environments. Our students not only begin to overcome their learning challenges, they begin to thrive. Trident Academy transforms lives," she said.

Trident Academy is located at 1455 Wakendaw Road in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, visit www.tridentacademy.com or call 843-884-7046.

In the War Against Cybercrime

he Citadel is fighting a war – not on a battlefield but in cyberspace. The military school is offering an undergraduate minor in Cybersecurity, as well as a graduate certificate – offered jointly with the College of Charleston – in Cybersecurity.

The Citadel has been designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the

BY KATIE WELLS

National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.

Fighting cybercrime has become crucial because in many ways, our lives depend on the internet. We may work remotely, order groceries from the comfort of our couch and even skip the line at our favorite coffee shop through an app. What price do we pay for all this? The more online activity, the greater chance of a cyberattack.

There is an immediate need for cybersecurity workforce development in the Lowcountry. Major employers in the Charleston region are interested in hiring employees who specialize in this field.

Upon completion of this program, students will be well-prepared to pursue a wide variety of jobs in the cybersecurity field, including: information security analyst; information security engineer; systems vulnerability analyst; and information security manager. The demand for cybersecurity workers is greater than what local colleges and universities are producing.

"We cannot solve the problem of cybersecurity overnight," said Shankar Banik, PhD, associate professor and co-director of The Citadel Center for Cyber, Intelligence and Security Studies. "The best strategy will be to manage this problem efficiently by developing the cybersecurity workforce to meet the challenges and demands and by creating cybersecurity awareness to educate users about cyber safety and ethics."

To learn more, visit www.citadel.edu.

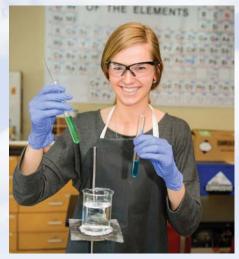




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HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS LOVE MAKING MUSIC

f you listen closely, you can almost hear the kids lining up their brand-new notebooks and pencils, buzzing with excitement for the upcoming school year. That's right, summer is coming to an end and families are gearing up for another school year – but that doesn't necessarily mean they'll be leaving the house to do so.

Instead, home schooling is taking the Charleston and Mount Pleasant communities by storm, allowing

BY KRYSTA CHAPMAN

kids to work in a more familiar environment while still digesting

valuable information and experiences on a daily basis. But if you ask these kids, they're just as excited about their music classes beginning. While many people believe homeschooled children to be less socially involved, nothing could be further from the truth. Led by Mike Doll – a band director with 22 years of experience behind him and a father of four home-schooled children himself – the Arts Academy at East Cooper Baptist Church is giving home schoolers the opportunity to join in on all of the fun and



education that music has to offer.

For his own family, Doll and his wife, Susan, decided to start home schooling their children when their first child, Abigail, now 15, started school.

"For us, it was simply a matter of deciding that we wanted to be the ones responsible for what and how our children learned. As trained educators, we could see the benefits of one-on-one learning with our children, while at the same time daily reinforcing our faith and being the



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Left to right: Rebekah Young and Abigail Doll; Ellen Young; Caleb and Logan Young.

primary cultural influencers of our children. We are able to know where they need extra help and how to achieve the desired results," Doll said.

Now, with three other children: Andrew, 12; Jonathan, 8; and Timothy, 4; all four children are active participants in band, choir and Kindermusik programs offered through the Arts Academy.

For others, like the Young Family, the desire to play an active role in their children's education and their Christian faith made it a clear decision to home school their seven children.

"We wanted to be together as a family and for us as their parents to be their main influencers of character and moral training," said Julie Young.

With their backgrounds in chemistry and finance, Rich and Julie Young are able to provide the level of training necessary not only for their kids but also for those in their community. Working in a co-op structure, the Young family is just one of roughly six that get together to teach various educational classes to the kids.

But when it is time to put down the books and pick up an instrument, they outsource that type of education to the band, choir, guitar classes and Kindermusik, which the Arts Academy at ECBC offers, and programs such as the East Cooper Homeschool Band – ECHo – with Mike Doll. The Young kids, ranging in age from 4 to 19, cover just about all the instruments these classes have to offer. From the flute to trumpet to piano, cello, sax, oboe, violin and even the viola – these kids are their very own music machines.

Playing with ECHo is just the beginning for some of these kids, who are then able to audition for larger bands and orchestras throughout the state.

"There are only six or so home-school bands in South Carolina," Doll said. "If we didn't have home-school bands, many of these kids would not have the opportunity to be part of a musical ensemble. Through their participation in band, they can also audition for groups like the Region 4 Honor Band and the South Carolina All-State Bands."

Some of the Young kids are doing just that. Ellen, a sophomore at Charleston Southern University, played with the Charleston Symphony Youth Orchestra for two years, while Logan, a freshman in high school, has already been seated fourth chair in the South Carolina Junior All-State Band. Abigail, Caleb and Rebekah have each earned seats in the Region 4 Honor Band. In addition, Abigail and Andrew have been selected for the ACDA SC All-State choirs this fall. Caleb has also auditioned for and earned a spot on the Seacoast WorshipTeam. While an audition





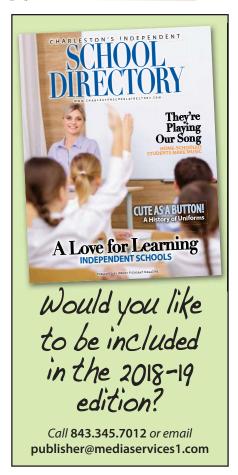
Ellen Young, left, and Logan Young.

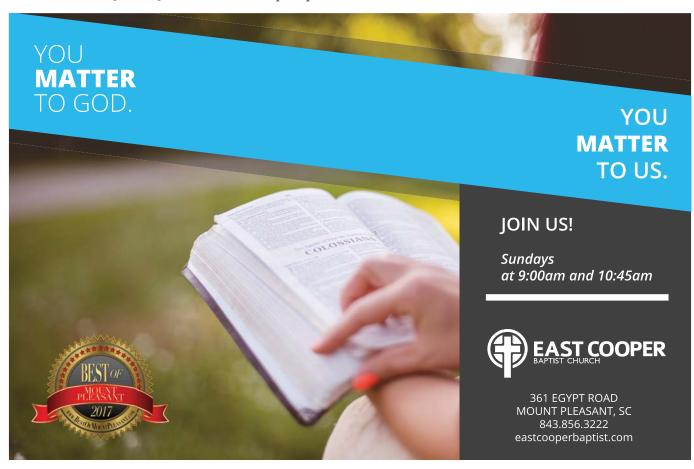
doesn't necessarily always end the way they want it to, Julie Young considers it a win nonetheless. The children are continuously "learning from the auditions" and gaining invaluable experience every time they step foot on stage.

For these families, and so many others throughout the area, having these types of musical outlets has been a true blessing. Though many of the kids are involved in other outside activities, such as ballet, swimming, karate and even the Lego Club, nothing compares to the moments they have together rocking out with their instruments and having fun. Whether it is a scheduled performance, afternoon practice or

impromptu jam session, these homeschooled kids are creating sweet music together and loving every minute of it.

If you would like more information on the music classes offered through the East Cooper Arts Academy, visit www.eastcooperbaptist.com/artsacademy or email Mike Doll at miked@eastcooperbaptist.com.





Directory of Independent Schools

CHARLESTON COUNTY	ADDRESS	LOCATION	PHONE	GRADES	ENROLLMENT
Addlestone Hebrew Academy	1639 Raoul Wallenberg Blvd.	Charleston, S.C. 29407	(843) 571-1105	PK-8	142
Archibald Rutledge Academy	1011 Old Cemetery Road	McClellanville, S.C. 29458	(843) 887-3323	K-12	34
Ashley Hall School	172 Rutledge Ave.	Charleston, S.C. 29403	(843) 965-8501	NS-12	682
Ashley River Child Development Center	1101 Savannah Highway	Charleston, S.C. 29407	(843) 556-2681	NS-PK	150
Bishop England High School	363 Seven Farms Drive	Charleston, S.C. 29492	(843) 849-9599	9-12	699
Blessed Sacrament School	7 Saint Teresa Drive	Charleston, S.C. 29407	(843) 766-2128	PK-8	320
Calvary Episcopal Day School	106 Line St.	Charleston, S.C. 29403	(843) 577-6721	PK-K	35
Capers Preparatory Christian Academy	1941 Bees Ferry Road	Charleston, S.C. 29414	(843) 225-2892	K-12	58
Cathedral Academy	3790 Ashley Phosphate Road	North Charleston, S.C. 29418	(843) 760-1192	PK-12	335
Charles Towne Montessori School	56 Leinbach Drive	Charleston, S.C. 29407	(843) 571-1140	NS-6	93
Charleston Christian School	2234 Plainview Road	Charleston, S.C. 29414	(843) 556-4480	K-8	79
Charleston Collegiate School	2024 Academy Road	Johns Island, S.C. 29455	(843) 559-5506	PK-12	291
Charleston Day School	15 Archdale St.	Charleston, S.C. 29401	(843) 377-0315	1-8	211
Charleston SDA School	2518 Savannah Highway	Charleston, S.C. 29414	(843) 571-7519	PK-8	30
Christ Our King - Stella Maris School	1183 Russell Drive	Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464	(843) 884-4721	PK-8	626
Coastal Christian Preparatory School	681 McCants Drive	Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464	(843) 884-3663	PK-12	153
Coastal Shores Christian School	8310 Dorchester Road	North Charleston, S.C. 29418	(843) 552-4105	NS-K	70
Ferndale Baptist School	4870 Piedmont Ave.	Charleston, S.C. 29406	(843) 554-0535	5-8	
First Baptist School	48 Meeting St.	Charleston, S.C. 29401	(843) 722-6646	PK-12	488
Grace Weekday School	1601 Sam Rittenberg Blvd.	Charleston, S.C. 29407	(843) 766-1621	NS-PK	172
Harbor View Presbyterian Church	900 Harborview Road	Charleston, S.C. 29412	(843) 795-4077	PK-K	41
James Island Christian School	15 Crosscreek Drive	Charleston, S.C. 29412	(843) 795-1762	PK-8	81
Mason Preparatory School	56 Halsey Blvd.	Charleston, S.C. 29401	(843) 723-0664	1-8	335
Montessori Of Mount Pleasant	208 Church St.	Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464	(843) 884-1117	PK-K	38
Montessori School Of Johns Island	3634 Mary Ann Point Road	Hollywood, S.C. 29455	(843) 559-0052	NS-6	25
Nativity School	1125 Pittsford Circle	Charleston, S.C. 29412	(843) 795-3975	PK-8	155
New Israel Christian School	69 Simons St.	Charleston, S.C. 29403	(843) 723-5500	PK-1	58
Northside Christian School	7800 Northside Drive	North Charleston, S.C. 29420	(843) 797-2690	PK-12	313
Northwood Academy	2263 Otranto Road	Charleston, S.C. 29406	(843) 572-0940	K-12	811
O'Quinn Schools Of Porter-Gaud	955 Houston Northcutt Blvd.	Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464	(843) 881-8506	PK-K	320
Owens Christian Academy	3377 Ridgeway St.	Charleston, S.C. 29405	(843) 744-5087	PK-1	79
Palmetto Academy, Inc.	913 Wappoo Road	Charleston, S.C. 29407	(843) 571-7740	6-12	22
Palmetto Christian Academy	361 Egypt Road	Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464	(843) 881-9967	K-12	492
Porter-Gaud School	300 Albemarle Road	Charleston, S.C. 29407	(843) 556-3620	1-12	898
Presbyterian Church Learning Center	302 Hibben St.	Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464	(843) 856-2020	PK-K	192
Remount Baptist Daycare	1520 Remount Road	Charleston, S.C. 29406	(843) 747-7403	PK-K	108
Riverpointe Christian Academy	2508 Ashley River Road	Charleston, S.C. 29414	(843) 763-1600	PK-12	109
Saint John Catholic School	3921 Saint John's Ave.	North Charleston, S.C. 29405	(843) 744-3901	PK-8	49
St. Andrews Day School	440 Whilden St.	Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464	(843) 284-4355	PK-K	197

			INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS		
St. Pauls Academy	5139 Gibson Rd	Hollywood, S.C. 29449	(843) 889-8702	PK-8	38
St. Andrews Presbyterian Weekday School		Charleston, S.C. 29407	(843) 571-6426	NS-PK	75
The Charleston Catholic School	888-A King St.	Charleston, S.C. 29403	(843) 577-4495	PK-8	170
The Cooper School	13 Oakdale Place	Charleston, S.C. 29407	(843) 573-1033	K-5	74
The O'Quinn School	1567 Harbor View Road	Charleston, S.C. 29412	(843) 795-6708	PK-K	623
Trident Academy	1455 Wakendaw Road	Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464	(843) 884-7046	K-8	49
Trinity Montessori School	1293 Orange Grove Road	Charleston, S.C. 29406	(843) 556-6686	PK-6	97
University School of the Lowcountry	690 Coleman Blvd.	Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464	(843) 884-0902	3-12	63
Westminster Presbyterian	1157 Sam Rittenberg Blvd.	Charleston, S.C. 29407	(843) 571-0321	PK-K	130
BERKELEY COUNTY	ADDRESS	LOCATION	PHONE	GRADES	ENROLLMENT
Divine Redeemer School	1104 Fort Drive	Hanahan, S.C. 29410	(843) 553-1521	PK-8	239
Grace Christian Academy	PO Box 749	Ladson, S.C. 29456	(843) 553-1373	K-12	91
Happy Faces Childcare & Learning Center	314 Rembert C. Dennis Blvd.	Moncks Corner, S.C. 29461	(843) 899-5353	PK-K	32
He Arts Christian Academy	PO Box 1938	Moncks Corner, S.C. 29461	(843) 899-0877	K-6	17
Londonderry Christian Montessori	174 Londonderry Road	Goose Creek, S.C. 29445	(843) 764-4549	K-12	88
Mevers School	7750 Henry E. Brown Blvd.	Goose Creek, S.C. 29445	(843) 872-9760	K-6	
Miracle Academy Preparatory School	PO Box 47	Russellville, S.C. 29476	(843) 567-4644	PK-12	113
New Life Christian Academy	402 Liberty Hall Road	Goose Creek, S.C. 29445	(843) 764-0642	K-6	64
St. John's Christian Academy	204 West Main St.	Moncks Corner, S.C. 29461	(843) 761-8539	PK-12	334
St. Timothy's Children's Center	200 Goose Creek Blvd.	Goose Creek, S.C. 29445	(843) 553-7175	PK-K	71
Trinity Christian Academy	2223 Harristown Road	Saint Stephen, S.C. 29479	(843) 567-9837	K-11	27
DORCHESTER COUNTY	ADDRESS	LOCATION	PHONE	GRADES	ENROLLMENT
Andrew Chapel Christian Academy	3670 Five Chop Road	Orangeburg, S.C. 29115	(803) 531-0303	K-5	21
Bethany Child Development Center	118 W. 3rd South St.	Summerville, S.C. 29483	(843) 821-1946	PK-K	156
Colleton Preparatory Academy	165 Academy Road	Walterboro, S.C. 29488	(843) 538-8959	PK-12	281
Community Christian Academy	15893 Bells Highway	Lodge, S.C. 29082	(843) 866-2662	K-12	22
Dorchester Academy	234 Academy Road	St. George, S.C. 29477	(843) 563-9511	PK-12	361
Faith Baptist Academy	64 Hendersonville Highway	Walterboro, S.C. 29488	(843) 538-2269	K	26
Faith Christian School	337 Farming Road	Summerville, S.C. 29483	(843) 873.8464	K3-12	349
Family Christian Academy	2107 Hampton St.	Walterboro, S.C. 29488	(843) 893-3536	K-9	72
Holly Hill Academy	PO Box 757	Holly Hill, S.C. 29059	(803) 496-3243	K-12	283
Majestic Dove Christian Academy	1261 Red Oak Road	Cottageville, S.C. 29435	(843) 835-5602	K-1	
New Alpha Christian School	100 Waring St.	Summerville, S.C. 29483	(843) 225-0203	PK-7	47
North Walterboro Christian Academy	PO Box 905	Walterboro, S.C. 29488	(843) 538-8080	K-12	89
Pinewood Preparatory School	1114 Orangeburg Road	Summerville, S.C. 29483	(843) 873.1643	PK-12	
Ridge Christian Academy	2168 Ridge Church Road	Summerville, S.C. 29483	(843) 873.9856	N-12	
St. Lukes Children's Center	206 Central Ave.	Summerville, S.C. 29483	(843) 871-6666	PK-K	124
Summerville Catholic School	226 Black Oak Blvd.	Summerville, S.C. 29485	(843) 873-9310	PK-8	262
The Oaks Christian School	505 Gahagan Road	Summerville, S.C. 29485	(843) 875-7667	PK-8	204
Vision Christian Academy	760 Travelers Blvd.	Summerville, S.C. 29481	(843) 821.2515	9-12	

Flexible Options to Meet Students' Needs

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY

ife is busy. Whether you dream of obtaining an undergraduate or a graduate degree, the prospect of doing so while juggling work, a family, a hectic schedule or a possible move in the near future can be enough to deter many people from even enrolling. But earning a higher education degree is not impossible, and Webster

BY ANNE TOOLE

University helps bring those dreams of a better "you" within reach.

Webster University is a global network of campuses spanning four continents, including two dozen in the United States. Its Charleston campus has been helping

students reach their academic goals for more than 30 years and maintains a current selection of degree programs that are significant to the local economy.

Some of the Charleston campus' programs include a master of arts in Counseling, master of Health Administration, master of Business Administration, graduate certificates in

Project Management, Organizational Development and Government Contracting, as well as a bachelor's degree in Management and Psychology. You can find a full list of programs at www.webster.edu/charleston.

The Master of Health Administration is one of the newest and fastest growing programs at the Charleston campus. This 36-credit-hour program prepares individuals to work in one of the leading industries in the Charleston area. Graduates of the program will guide health care organizations toward greater efficiency through planning, directing, coordinating and supervising the health care we count on for ourselves and our families.

The master of arts in Counseling continues to be the largest program at the Charleston campus and is the only clinical mental health program in the Charleston area. This program prepares students with a strong base of knowledge

and skills to practice effectively in a variety of careers in the field of mental health. Graduates of the program will be prepared to take the licensing exam and will possess all the educational requirements necessary to become licensed in South Carolina.

"We have over 250 students in Charleston, and most hold full-time jobs," explained Vice Provost Nancy Hellerud. "We are honored to offer tuition discounts to several major area employers – for example, Boeing, MUSC and the military – who send employees here to advance their careers through higher education. We are constantly expanding our relationships with local employers to provide quality education to individuals from

all over the Charleston area."

Night and online courses accommodate students' schedules, and on-campus classes meet one night each week for nine-week terms. The local campus is located in North Charleston, off of Leeds Avenue.

"The average student spends approximately two years earning their master's degree. However, full-time students may complete a 36-credit-hour degree in a little

over a year. The options are flexible to meet each student's needs," Hellerud said.

In addition to the flexible schedule, relevant course offerings and worldwide network, Webster University's faculty members are rated highly by students.

"Nearly all of our professors are adjunct faculty. They are in the workforce doing what they teach. They have real-world experience and real-world connections, and they enhance the quality of education," said Hellerud. "Not only do we want you to graduate with a great degree, but we want you to have a great career as well. We're here to help you do that."

To learn more about Webster University's programs and admission requirements, visit www.webster.edu/charleston or call 843-760-1324.



Helping Students Pursue Excellence

PALMETTO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

almetto Christian Academy provides
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in a Christian atmosphere where
students are encouraged to find their
individual strengths and use them
for the benefit of the community. In
fact, many of the school's employees
found their positions when they enrolled their children

BY GINGER SOTTILE

at PCA, discovering a learning environment that welcomes

biblical teaching and fosters kindred spirits among the faculty and staff.

Sally Pascutti is the guidance counselor at Palmetto Christian Academy. Like so many mothers, she volunteered in classrooms before making the transition into teaching, working as an English and English as a second language instructor. As a lover of the written word, she recognized "stories that have stood the test of time ... include the theme of redemption," which confirmed her Christian

Photo courtesy of Palmetto Christian Academy.

Palmetto Christian graduates are currently attending a wide variety of colleges, and this year's graduates were offered almost \$2 million in scholarships, including seven Palmetto Fellows.

beliefs. An Isle of Palms native, she moved her family back to the Lowcountry over a decade ago and found Palmetto Christian Academy to be a perfect fit for her family.

Pascutti helps students "understand work as a purposeful, valuable, creative service to the larger community. In an age when people can expect to change careers at least five times, education is really about preparing students' hearts and minds for what their life's work will be so that they can do well in whatever situation the Lord assigns to them."

Toward that goal, she directs programs including "How to Make High School Count" discussions, "Christ in the Marketplace Career Day," an 11th grade College Focus class and college tour, and community service.

Christ in the Marketplace showcases professionals who share with students the details of their professions as well as "the unique privileges of following Christ in a work environment." In College Focus, students prepare college applications, resumes and essays and also research colleges, careers and majors. Community service – high school students perform 20 hours annually – is volunteerism focused on areas of each student's potential career.

Interested in teaching? Try it at Vacation Bible School or summer camps. Love science or engineering? Water Missions or the South Carolina Aquarium is a good place to exercise those skills. And for health care, the Seacoast

Dream Center health clinic, as well as area hospitals, offer volunteer spots in the medical field.

Palmetto Christian graduates are currently attending a wide variety of colleges, including Clemson, College of Charleston, USC-Columbia. Wofford, Furman, UNC-Chapel Hill, Notre Dame, Columbia University, Sewanee, Liberty, Flagler and Anderson. Clemson

tops the list for the class of 2017, with more than a third of the class accepting offers there. This year's graduates were offered almost \$2 million in scholarships, including seven Palmetto Fellows. Scholarships were earned for academic merit, Christian ministry, leadership, community service, military, athletics and fine arts. SAT scores for the top 25 percent averaged 674 in math and 711 in reading, with the entire class earning an average of 592 in math and 601 in reading. ACT top 25 percent scores averaged 29, with the class average being 25.7.

Palmetto Christian Academy is located at 361 Egypt Road in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, call 843-881-9967 or visit www.palmettochristianacademy.org.

Four Pillars to Success

CHARLESTON COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

ince 1970, Charleston Collegiate has upheld its mission to inspire its students to become passionate, lifelong learners. Faculty members strive to develop every aspect of their students' lives,

BY SHELBY DAVIS

their purpose within it.

from the campus to the community, through what the school calls its Four Pillars of Education.

The first pillar, Project-Based Learning, is used to explore real-world problems and challenges through creative thinking and problem solving. This is present throughout the school, from elementary students writing business proposals for selling garden produce at the farmers market to high schoolers connecting their life with a poem written centuries ago. Project-Based Learning helps the students of Charleston Collegiate understand the world and

The second pillar, Creativity and the Arts, helps all students, preschool through 12th grade, reach a deeper understanding of their subject matter by utilizing "cross-curricular learning" and incorporating fine arts into all

other academic courses and projects.

Thirdly, Charleston Collegiate believes in the importance of teaching students leadership through outdoor education. CCS takes full advantage of its 30-acre campus with an Outdoor Leadership Education Center, complete with a tidal swamp dock for studying the local ecology, a kayak program that educates students fourth grade and up about the rich, local history and a ropes course to help students understand their roles as leaders in the community.

The fourth pillar that Charleston Collegiate strives to ingrain into its students is Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship. By exposing students to the fundamentals of personal finance and business planning from as early as second grade, the school prepares students for their futures by evoking an entrepreneurial spirit from a young age.

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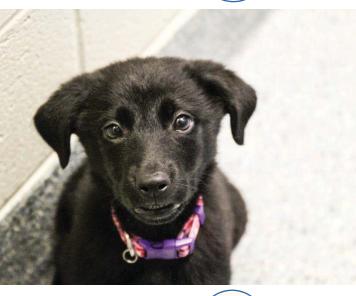






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CHARLIE'S PUB NOTE

I really can't believe I'm writing my first publisher's note for Mount Pleasant's first and only magazine and website just for me and my friends. Mount Pleasant Pets and www. MountPleasant.Pet are both labors of love.

It all began one afternoon when I was walking with my buddy Bill down by the Pitt Street Bridge. I wanted to tell him my idea of a pet magazine and website just for Mount Pleasant. It was an idea recently discussed by several of my pack friends: Journey, Jelly Bean, Piper, Trinity and my BDF, or best dog friend, Madison.

But as we walked toward the remains of the old Pitt Street Bridge, it was difficult, as usual, to get Bill's attention. Even though we were there to spend some quality time together, he kept stopping to talk to people. It seems wherever we go, he is running his mouth. Don't misunderstand me, I love my buddy Bill, but sometimes he's a handful and it's hard to keep him focused on our conversations.

After walking for a while, we both looked toward the Charleston skyline. I looked at Bill and said, "I like Charleston, but I LOVE Mount Pleasant." Then I thought to myself, this is a perfect time to tell Bill about my publishing idea! With much enthusiasm, I went right into the idea my BDF, the others and I had talked about. I couldn't help myself, I was so excited. I went on to explain about my idea for a website and publication for Mount Pleasant that focuses on the best places to go, stay, play and be healthy for all my friends and other pets, too. As I looked into my buddy Bill's

eyes, much like he looks into my eyes and knows what I'm thinking, I knew I finally had his attention, and I knew what he was thinking. He liked my ideas! I couldn't believe it.

Not only is the Pitt Street bridge a G-R-R-eat place to take a walk, I will now always remember it as the place I convinced my buddy Bill to help me publish Mount Pleasant's only pet magazine



With my buddy Bill

and pet website. So thanks, everyone, for reading the new magazine, and thank you to my favorite pack friends for helping me take the idea and bring it to our owners and other human friends. This is a doggone good publication.



Just For and About our Pets The second seco

MTPLEASANT.PET

To be included in this magazine or website: Info@MtPleasant.Pet



o Greater A FAMILY PET **CAN IMPROVE YOUR**

I can remember one of the first times I came home from work after I got my puppy. He ran to greet me at the door and was so happy. I thought, "Now this is why I got a dog."

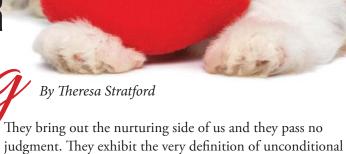
According to Animal Smart, just the act of petting an animal can increase levels of the stress-reducing hormone oxytocin and decrease production of the stress hormone cortisol. Study after study has shown that owning a pet is good for your health. A 2001 survey from Animal Smart found that pet-owning patients could keep their high blood pressure in check during times of stress better than patients without pets. And yet another study showed that patients who have suffered a heart attack increase their odds of surviving for at least a year if they own a pet.

It's that unconditional love that a pet gives you. They don't judge you for leaving a pile of laundry on the floor, and they don't mind if you ignore the dirty dishes in the sink. They truly are a man's – and woman's – best friend.

Jessica Hecker, the veterinary technician manager at

Advanced Animal Care of Mount Pleasant, said she has been in the field for 11 years but still feels there is so much more she can learn from animals.

"I am constantly amazed by all the things I learn from animals," she said. "They are capable of bringing out the best in people, even in the most dire situations.



love."

Pets also do a great job of helping people deal with loneliness. According to Pet Health Network, senior citizens who own a pet have an enhanced quality of life because their pet gets them out and increases their feelings of social connectedness. While getting a pet solely for the purpose of meeting people may not be a good idea, it is hard to overlook the fact that animals bring people together and improve socialization overall.

And who hasn't heard of therapy dogs? Their entire purpose in life is to make people feel better. According to a recent article in *Time* magazine, pet therapy is actually used alongside conventional medicine. The article pointed out that there isn't one major children's hospital in the country that doesn't allow pets on its floors for some kind of pet therapy program.

> Dr. Christa Kahuda of Charleston Harbor Veterinarians in downtown Charleston said, "The worldwide One Health initiative coined the term zooeyia, which refers to the many positive benefits to human health from interacting with animals. Pets provide us with physical touch when we are in need of comfort, an ear for our problems and a laugh after a long day."





Pets can provide physical as well as emotional help for their owners, even helping to reduce the effects of allergies. It might seem strange that the very thing that causes allergies – pet dander – can actually end up reducing it, but it's true. A study published in *The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* showed that babies exposed to animals in their home developed stronger immune systems overall.

Both Dr. Kahuda and Hecker said the species and breed do not matter when it comes to reducing stress.

"They become family members and provide the connection and sense of belonging that we as humans crave," Dr. Kahuda said.

Caring for an animal teaches the very valid lesson of being selfless and realizing that someone depends on you for care and love. Many empty nesters find that owning a pet provides them with that sense of purpose again that parenting gave them for so many years.

As Hecker put it, "What could be better for our mental health than knowing that just our existence creates so much happiness and love in someone else's life?"

And that, my friends, is why you get a pet – in case you were on the fence.

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Stories and photos su



Wilma – *Great Dane* Owner – Rachel Campbell



My husband and I had just started talking about getting another dog when we saw Wilma's picture on Petfinder.com. We weren't quite ready at that time, so we decided to revisit when we got back from our vacation in October 2014. Three days after getting back, Wilma's foster mom walked into Indigo

Creek Pet Supplies (my place of work), and I couldn't ignore that coincidence. Within the month, we started the process of adoption, and she hit it off with our other dog, Jethro. Wilma quickly became a mascot for the store and has quite the fan club now. We go out in public and people will recognize her and say, "Oh look. It's the dog from Indigo Creek!" Wilma is unique because she came through a rescue for Great Danes through no fault of her own. She had gone from lonely dog forgotten about in the backyard at someone's house to a full-time dog food connoisseur at the pet supply store. She is amazingly sweet and patient with children, very calm-natured and is quite a trooper on our camping and hiking trips.



Huck – Chesapeake Bay retriever Owner – Sindy Orvig

The CBR breed is unique in that it was the first individual retriever breed to be recognized by the AKC in 1878. I've only ever seen three other CBRs in South Carolina. Huck loves all things CBRs are known for: hunting, swimming, protecting his family and EATING EVERTHING. Born in McClellanville and raised in Mount Pleasant, Huck has traveled to 11 states with me.





Pete – *cat/tabby* Owner – Meredith Nelson

Pete was a feral cat at our former location on Sullivan's Island. Pete and some of his feral friends were trapped, neutered and released with the help of a great program, the Feline Federation Coalition. Old and with only two teeth, PrimeTime Fitness couldn't leave Pete behind when we relocated to Mount Pleasant. We worked hard for months before our move to tame him and make him comfortable as an indoor cat.

The second day in Pete's new home, he escaped and ran straight for the marsh. I put out an email to all of the gym members, asking them to let me know if he was spotted – although I knew that, being so old, having no teeth and being protected for so long were not in his favor if he was out on his own.

Surprisingly, a member contacted us immediately and said she had seen Pete – at our former location on the island! Sure enough, I drove out to Sullivan's – skeptical the whole way. But when I pulled up at our old spot, there was Pete basking in the sun in the front yard. He had avoided coyotes and cars and made it all the way from Mount Pleasant back to Sullivan's – not only making the two mile trek but also crossing the Ben Sawyer Bridge.

I scooped him up and took him back to PrimeTime in Mount Pleasant. He remained with us for six months, a fixture in the gym. Members would often stop in with treats or just to pet him and say hello. Pete's "toothless tongue" always hung out of his mouth and brought a smile to everyone. Unfortunately, Pete was old and also had feline leukemia. We had to say goodbye to him last year. PrimeTime Fitness hasn't been the same without him!



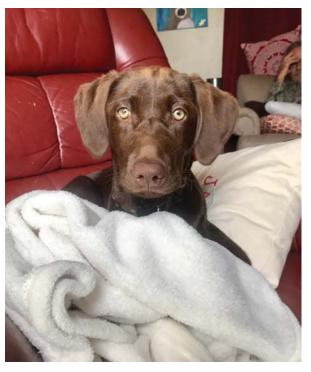


Eddie – *Boykin spaniel* Owner – Sullivan Conte

Edisto "Eddie" came to our family as a very nervous, timid rescue. In the past couple of years, he has flourished, knowing he is safe and loved. He's the best dog-brother for an only child. He was gun shy and not suitable as a hunting companion, but he's great at snuggling on the couch!



Lady – *Lab* Owner – Taylor Armstrong



She is the sweetest and most sassy little "Lady." I love coming home to see those green eyes and that tail wag! She's truly the most loving pup she's a head butt and tail flop down kinda cuddle buddy! I love her to pieces! She's always with me and never wants to leave my side. I'm currently in nursing school, and she cries when I have to sit at the table and study and not cuddle or play with her.



Camo – Fancy bearded dragon Owner – Sawyer Brooks

Camo is a very adventurous 6-month old fancy bearded dragon. He enjoys swimming, hanging out and going on car rides. He has already visited a local elementary school to help educate children about reptiles. However, his absolute favorite thing to do is pretend he is among the dinosaurs in Jurassic Park.

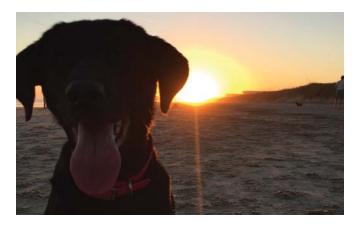


Deuce – *golden-Lab mix* Owner – Lee Hudson

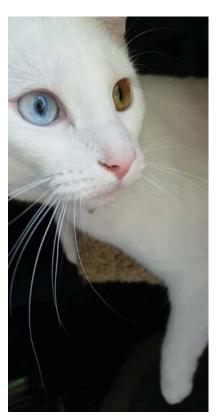
Deuce is a "goldador" – half golden retriever and half black Lab. He is very outgoing thinks that everyone is just there to see him. He loves chasing tennis balls and his Kanine Kannon!

Lilly – *black Lab/Boykin spaniel* Owner – Bailey Floyd

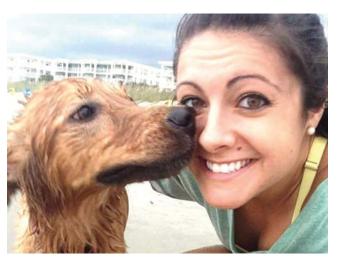
Lilly is a 2-and-a-half-year-old black lab and Boykin spaniel mix, favoring her lab side. She is absolutely full of energy and spunk. She loves and plays like no other. I am constantly snapping pictures of her because of how naturally photogenic she is. She adores the camera.



Marge Simpson – *Oriental and American shorthair*Owner – Nikki Wood



We rescued Marge from the Charleston Animal Society after the death of our beloved cat, Lola. Our other cat, Jim, was depressed and lonely and our lives were feeling empty. From the minute we brought her home, she has showed us nothing but love. Marge and Jim quickly became best friends, and he is so smitten with her! Her personality is amazing, and she is the best snuggle bug I have ever met! We are truly thankful for our Marge!



Bailey – golden retriever/border collie Owner – Alicia Thames

Bailey was abandoned as a 4-week-old puppy in a box on the side of the road. I'm so thankful I was driving by and saw her that day because I took her in, and she's been the best dog and companion I could ever hope for! Now Bailey is 5 years old. She is addicted to tennis balls, swimming, going for walks, playing fetch and being with her favorite humans! She is very intelligent and cuddly and always aims to please. We pray Bailey continues to live a long, happy and healthy life with us!



RockSea – Australian shepherd Owner – Bobby Carrier

RockSea is the most human-like dog I have ever owned. She was a rescue that had been abused. However, she blossomed into the best companion a man could have. She is so disciplined and is trained very well. She can go anywhere and not be on a leash. She loves the beach. This photo was taken on Sullivan's Island.



Elvis – *Chihuahua/Jack Russell* Owner - Elena Lawson



Elvis was brought in to Charleston Animal Society as a stray. Upon arrival, he had a cleft palate where his nostril was not connected, which made it hard for him to be able to eat and drink, so he was very skinny. We began fostering after his first surgery with Dr. Bianucci with Mount Pleasant Veterinary Care. Since this is rare in dogs, it took two surgeries to fix his nose. He is an amazing dog and after fostering him, we couldn't let go. We are foster failures and would not have it any other way! There is a T-shirt that says, "We took him in to do our part. He turned around and stole our heart!" He is a true blessing to our family.



Sadie – *Beagle* Owner - Tifany O'Neal

Always curious and always full of love, Sadie and Simms have been buddies since Day 1!

PETS by the NUMBERS

78 MILLION

dogs as pets in USA

85.8 MILLION

cats as pets in USA

44% of all USA households have a dog

35% of all USA households have a cat

40% dogs found their owners via word of mouth

1.6 MILLION cats adopted from shelters each year

1.6 MILLION

dogs adopted from shelters each year

46% cats found their owners via word of mouth

710,000

animals returned to owners from shelters (620,000 dogs & 90,000 cats)



Estimated pet population in Town of Mount Pleasant (per formula on website based on population of 77,796)

17,474 dogs

19,090 cats

2,124 birds

1,227 horses

10,921 households with dogs

9,096 households with cats

928 households with birds

449 households with horses

www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Statistics/Pages/Market-research-statistics-US-pet-ownership.aspx



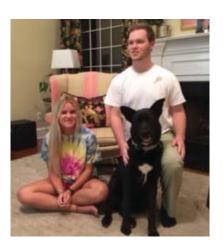
Rosebud – *Fancy bearded dragon* Owner – Charlie Brooks

Hi, my name is Rosebud. I am Camo's sister. I, too, like to go everywhere with my family. I sometimes have to even work at Brooks Custom Woodworks with my family on Sullivan's Island. I am a very relaxed fancy bearded dragon. I love to sleep in a warm blanket at the end of a busy day.

Walker – *shar pei/border collie* Owner – Trey and Elizabeth Goolsby

Walker is the most sensitive and conscientious dog who has ever been a part of our family. He is always attuned to what we are doing and very responsive at all times, and his ears are usually alert and upright just to prove it. He is a champion patroller of moles and

is fully capable of pulling them out of the ground, much like a magician pulls a rabbit out of a hat. He uses his paws, like hands, frequently and likes to "tap" you with his paw to communicate with you. Our favorite thing he does is when he likes to bury his head in your lap. He is very affectionate. Walker is the best dog ever!



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A Helping Paw



THERAPY DOGS MAKE LIFE BETTER

By Kalene McCort





Walking into Realtor Ann Whalen's office, I'm greeted by Nimitz – a 4-and-a-half-year-old English cream golden retriever with the kind of chocolate-brown eyes that make you melt like a popsicle left on a Lowcountry dock. He doesn't bark, dart toward me or jump to make my acquaintance but rather saunters over to the door and gazes out the window to calmly take in the sight of geese congregating by a nearby pond. I can tell by his demeanor he's enjoying the view. While other dogs may have let out a howl and doused the door with drool in an attempt to make their way out to the feathered flock, he sits and stares – perhaps daydreaming of long rides in the family golf cart.

"He didn't pass puppy training," recalled Whalen, his owner. "If the pack went left, he went right."

Despite his rebel spirit – apparent from birth – Nimitz has transformed into one of the top therapy dogs in the region. On one occasion, he didn't even flinch when faced with the weight of a walker on top of his tender tail.

"You just have a purpose when you have a dog," said Whalen. "Nimitz is so loving. Keeping up with his schedule and working can be a lot. Some days, he seems to be busier than me."

Whether he's visiting folks at the senior center or leaving neighbors in a state of glee, Nimitz's very presence seems to offer a sense of relief and tranquility. This therapy dog even provides camaraderie for a cat, Meezer, that shares his Awendaw home.

This summer, Nimitz will have the opportunity to play alongside some truly exceptional kids at Camp Rise Above – a program held at James Island County Park for those dealing with everything from brain tumors to sickle cell anemia. The camp is broken down into seven sessions of

two full days, each catering to a different group of campers with a specific condition. Participants will stretch their creativity with arts and crafts and build strength in the water with paddle boarding sessions. They will also get the opportunity to meet amazing canines like the endearing Nimitz.

"We are very excited about this opportunity," said Whalen, who spent years working with children at a similar sleep-away camp in North Carolina. "We hope to one day get him into a program at MUSC Children's Hospital."

He already visits hospice every week and brings a bit of cheer to patients and family members during the most stressful times of their lives.

"He goes to each room and rests his head on the patient's bed," said Whalen.

Recently, while visiting with an Alzheimer's patient, Nimitz's presence jolted his memory. A veteran, the man became lucid, carried on conversations and even commented on the fact that Nimitz's namesake was an esteemed fleet admiral who fought in WW 11.

"When I put his therapy collar on, he is a totally different dog," said Whalen, who brings Nimitz to a refresher course at Alpha Dog Training every six months. "He knows it's time to go to work."





While therapy dogs bring joy to those struggling with grief, illness or emotional upset, they also are helping kids increase their own literary confidence. We all remember the early days of childhood where sounding out words and reading aloud to a group of our peers could possibly bring on anxiety. What if your reading partner had a shiny coat and a nonjudgmental stance? Therapy dogs make monthly appearances at libraries, such as Mount Pleasant Regional and Edgar Allen Poe on Sullivan's Island, to participate in reading programs designed to help children excel.

"Dogs don't criticize or laugh when one makes a mistake," said Cynthia King, president of Southeastern Therapy Animal Resources. "Also, there are children who come who are afraid of dogs. It is fun to watch a shy child want to come up to pet our dogs."

King is the proud owner of two standard poodles, Pete and Holly, that accompany her to hospitals, assisted living facilities and schools all across the Lowcountry.

"As a founding member of STAR, I've watched it grow from seven people sitting on a porch, deciding to start a therapy group, to around 80 members," said King. "Just knowing how many teams we are helping in the community is satisfying."

Think your pooch has what it takes to bring smiles to faces throughout the area? King encourages community members to reach out and get involved.

"There is no one breed or size of dog that makes a good therapy dog," said King. "All that is needed is a trained dog – one that enjoys being petted."

From Great Danes to basset hounds, the number of shapes a therapy dog can take is about as varied as the people and ailments they can help.

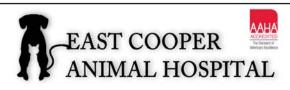
Ever find yourself stressed about your day's events, only to come home and seek relief from your pet?

Vibra Hospital of Charleston, located at 1200 Hospital Drive in Mount Pleasant, understands that sometimes the best medicine comes in the form of quality time spent with animals. When being treated for an illness, oftentimes mood can be affected, and not being in your own home can take a toll. However, being able to interact with your pet adds a bit of coziness to your hospital stay. That's why Vibra has incorporated an innovative program that allows patients to see their furry friends during select visiting hours.

Studies show that the presence of an animal can alleviate stress, lower blood pressure and speed up the recovery process. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have conducted heart-related studies on pet owners. The findings showed that those who own pets exhibit decreased blood pressure, cholesterol and triglyceride levels, which can reduce the risk of having a heart attack.

The animals that visit Vibra must be of the dog or cat variety; no exotic pets are allowed. Owners must provide proper documentation from a vet confirming the animal's health and cleanliness. Nails must be trimmed, hair must be groomed and the animals must remain on a leash at all times.

Want to improve your health, prevent disease and stay in shape? A trip to your local animal rescue may be the prescription you need.



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Glenn Garritano is nervous that someone will shoot his house cat, mistaking it for a jungle beast. His fear is not unwarranted.

Zarathustra is an extraordinary feline, a Savannah cat as exotic as her name suggests. I met Glenn and "Zara" on a Sunday afternoon at Mount Pleasant's Dog & Duck, where Zara was lounging in a patch of sunlight on the sidewalk, demurely ignoring the small crowd of brunchers hovering around her with their iPhones.

"They said she'd be afraid of people," laughed Garritano, who adopted Zara from a breeder two years ago, "right after she came out of her mama" as he put it.

"She goes everywhere with me," said Garritano. "She rides in my truck. Hell, she goes on my motorcycle with me!"

He's even designing a customized sidecar for his Can-Am motorcycle to give Zara a smooth ride.

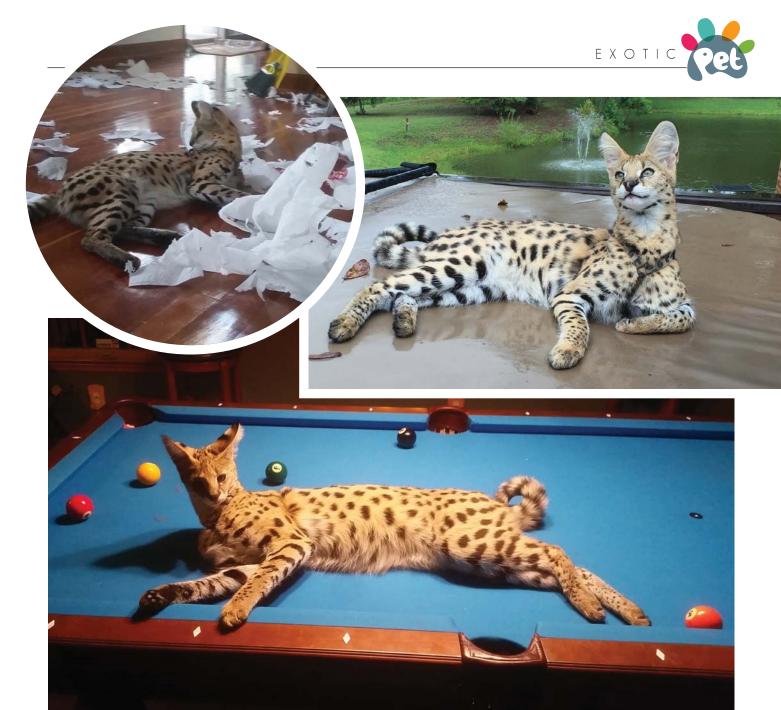
Zara saunters away from the mother-daughter duo cooing over her and jumps onto the hood of my Prius, hungrily eyeing the Porsche next to it. She is leashed to a tree, and Garritano keeps a close eye on her. Strapped to the back of her neon green harness, a mini GPS tracker transmits her whereabouts 24/7 to an app on Garritano's smartphone.

Savannahs are a hybrid of African servals and domestic cats, a cross popularized in the 1980s and lusted after by

By Enid Spitz

wealthy pet owners for its cheetah-like markings. Known for their dog-like qualities, Savannahs are loyal, playful, highly curious and social. They also cost tens of thousands of dollars. Domestic Savannahs are ranked by their serval lineage – basically, how close to wild they are, with F6 being the furthest removed and F1 the closest and most elusive.





As far as Savannahs go, Zara is the only one in the Charleston region. You might have to go as far as Florence or Lancaster to find another. It is arresting to see her, looking like a mixture between a minicheetah and a lynx, on the windshield of a white Prius parked in Mount Pleasant. As an F1 back-cross, Zara is more than 75-percent serval – about as close as you can legally get to a wild African cat.

"She's been checked out by all the animal controls," said Garritano. "If you called them right now, they'd be like, 'Yeah, that's just Zara."

She is more curious than vicious, and, while Garritano doesn't recommend Savannahs as a pet for most people, Zara seems mostly harmless. Besides jumping on Porsches or nipping at one of the chickens Garritano keeps on his expansive property, Zara seems happy to sunbathe silently

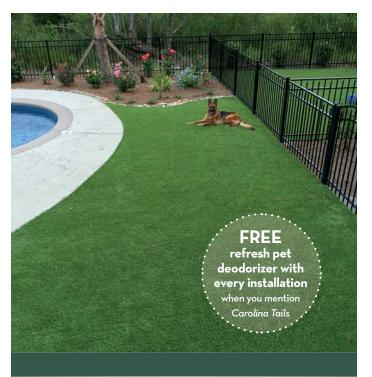
on patios while Garritano sips sweet tea.

"I call and ask if places are pet friendly," he said. "They say yeah and then I show up with her, and they're like, 'Oh! Do you want a dog bowl?"

This cat is not unlike a dog, filling the role of both companion and prized possession. Zara is house-trained; she sticks her head out the window of Garritano's truck; she eats raw chicken thighs (bone-in) or canned food he buys online for "less than Friskies at Wal-Mart;" and she cuddles on the couch.

"I don't let her off the leash because she'll see something and run, and then I've got to run and I hate running," Garritano laughed.

It's rare to see one of them without the other, though who's leading who is unclear.

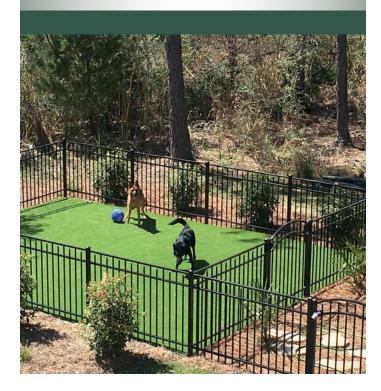




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Exotic pet shows or competitions couldn't be less interesting to this duo. Zara is happy to stay in the 3,000-foot enclosure Garritano built for her, complete with a carpeted slide and toy mice that he dangles from fishing poles. And he's happy to share the intrigue of his exotic pet on outings, snapping photos with starry-eyed passersby who are surprised to find Zara at places like Mozzo Deli, one of her favorite watering holes.

Named after Zoroaster, the ancient Iranian prophet who mentored the three wise men in the bible, Zara even looks a little biblical.

"She's a cat, man. And she's a chick. She's got her own thing going on," said Garritano.

As Zara slinks off the hood of my car, Garritano explains Zoroaster's teachings: "Good thoughts; good words; good deeds. The punishment if you mess up is just try again

tomorrow."

Like a feline Mona Lisa, Zara seems privy to this wisdom. Squinting in the sun, she looks as fierce as her F1 status implies. This is a cat who would punch her prey to death in the wild; not swat but hold down with one paw and punch into submission. But she is doing good deeds here in Mount Pleasant, laying docilely so diners at Dog & Duck can stroke her.

"I just worry about if she ever gets loose," said Garritano, keeping a close eye on Zara from his shady seat at a picnic table. "You get some guy who'll come out with his gun like, 'I'm gonna bag me a bengal!'"

Out of his mouth, Bengal sounds like a dirty word. Garritano's Zarathustra is nothing if not a proud Savannah cat.



"She is a smile-maker. I've seen couples who are fighting stop fighting and start chatting and smiling together when they see her," said Garritano. "I paid \$15,000 for her and I would spend it again in a minute. I got \$15,000 worth of happiness within a few months."

This is the rare case where naming a cat Zarathustra is not overkill.





THAN JUST A **Organizations**

By Kalene McCort

Coonhounds are the unsung breed of the South. During peak times of the year, their days are spent procuring bird bodies, clutching feathered mallards in their jaws and pointing at quail. They brave the elements and clock long hours in the woods, all to ensure that a successful day of dinner fetching is complete. Explorers by nature, their noses lead them to adventure. At the end of a hunting season, it isn't uncommon for them to be discarded. While many hunters treat their dogs like family, a number of these dogs find themselves homeless after a successful

season is through.

Each January, at the close of hunting season, shelters brace themselves for an influx of abandoned dogs. In some cases, the hounds are left helpless, on the roadside, to fend for themselves without food or water. That's where advocate and dog-saving powerhouse Kelly Postell comes in. In 2010, she started Carolina Coonhound Rescue

to give these loving, neglected dogs a voice, and, since that time, she's saved thousands of canines from falling victim to unfortunate circumstances. Between responding to

calls from concerned citizens who have found abandoned puppies and traveling to rural shelters to save dogs from euthanasia, her schedule stays full.

"This is a problem in all states that still allow dogs to be used in hunting for game, especially for deer," said Kelly Postell. "It's hard to know just how many are abandoned since there are other reasons why these dogs end up in shelters, like being picked up by unsuspecting people when they are found on the side of the road during a hunt or simply straying too far from the hunt area, but it does happen."

Every single year, her mission grows bigger – to save even more dogs on a larger scale. Providing them with medical care, food and shelter is all done with the help of citizens opening up their wallets and homes for this unique breed synonymous with life in the deep South.

"Our biggest need at any given time is money and fosters," said Postell. "We don't have a shelter facility, and we rely on fosters to house the dogs. We don't discriminate on health needs for the dogs we take in, so many are quite expensive to get to an adoptable state. More fosters equals more lives saved."

From the cobblestone streets of downtown to the sandy shores of Sullivan's Island, many local families have stepped up and taken these dogs in. Whether it's adopting them for good or simply providing them with a safe place to stay temporarily, the local community continues to show up for these animals in a big way.

"We have a few fosters and several adopters in the Mount Pleasant area and are always happy for more," said Postell. "Coonhounds make excellent family pets and are way more than just hunting dogs."

By the time a dog finds its way to Postell and her team, they can often be in a pretty dire condition.

"In 2016, our vet bills surpassed \$50,000, with an average of about \$600 going into each dog to get it to an adoptable state," said Postell. "Some individual dogs cost us well over \$2,000 alone. We rely on donations from the community to continue to help these dogs that very few other organizations can or will help."

> The real passion for Postell comes with witnessing the incredible transformations these dogs undergo. From scared and malnourished to engaging and plump, it's amazing the turnaround that occurs once these beings are given the right amount of care and compassion.

"I am particularly in awe of all of the amazing people that are actively involved in The Carolina Coonhound Rescue," said Postell. "Without them, these dogs would

be dead. It's stressful and heartbreaking a lot of the time, but it's also so great to see the dogs that we can help thrive in their family environments."

tound

Fostering is a great way to offer a dog a safe and comfortable home before they transition into a more stable situation, and Postell encouraged those that can to take the chance.

"It's hard, grueling work for all of us here, and we are all volunteer run," said Postell. "We work full-time jobs and manage families on top of what we do with the organization, so seeing these once broken and hopeless dogs flourish in their new homes is really what it's all about."

To get involved, visit carolinacoonhoundrescue.com.



PALMETTO PAWS

Another foster-based rescue with no physical shelter is Palmetto Paws. Saving dogs from kill shelters, these heroes host weekly adoption seminars right in Mount Pleasant. Every Saturday, you can head to Petco on Highway 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., to get a look at all the puppies up for adoption. Whether you want a boxer/retrieve mix or a border collie, you are sure to find your best friend at one of their events.

PET HELPERS

Perhaps the most well-known organization in the Charleston area, Pet Helpers keeps the public up-to-date with weekly appearances on "Lowcountry Live." You can tune in to ABC News 4 to see the cats and dogs that are seeking forever homes.











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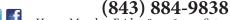
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MEETING PET NEEDS NATURALLY

EARTHWISE

Pet Supply • Grooming • Self Wash

By Krysta Chapman

Pet lovers rejoice: It's time to welcome a brand-new pet supply and grooming store to town – and they're focused on going all natural for your furry friends.

With its recent opening on June 10, EarthWise Pet Sup-

ply is proud to bring healthy and safe treats, toys, food and supplies with brands such as Grandma Lucy's; Stella & Chewy's; Primal; and more. Following its philosophy that all-natural is the best way to care for your beloved dogs and cats, EarthWise is committed to making healthier animal care easy, accessible and affordable.



With EarthWise's self-wash stations, you now have a chance to get wet and wild with your pets, utilizing a fully prepared facility, with all of the products and tools you want – without the cleanup you don't! Running short on time? Drop your animals off to be groomed by one of Earthwise's experienced groomers and fellow pet lovers.

Drop by twice a month to see the adorable – and adoptable – local dogs and cats in the Charleston area. Through its work with shelters such as Eunoia Rescue; H.F. Help No-Kill Rescue; and Bullies 2 the Rescue, EarthWise is helping to bring an end to animals without homes and adding more four-legged love to your family.

Located in the East Cooper Plaza off of Johnnie Dodds Boulevard, this brand-new supply and grooming center is

ready to go with all of your pet care needs. Whether you are looking for the raw products your cats and dogs deserve or stocking up on the toys you know they'll love, EarthWise is excited to deliver friendly and helpful service for animals – and their owners – throughout the Charleston area. To learn more, visit 619 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., or call 843-388-5225.



Pets enrich the lives of many publishing team members here at MOUNT PLEASANT MAGAZINE and MOUNT PLEASANT PETS.

Bill Macchio with Charlie, Rainey Causey with Prezley, Bert Wood with Ernie the Fish, Brandon Clark with Sadie May,

Dana Coleman with Piper, Cullen Murray-Kemp with Journey, Anthony Macchio with Madison,

Margaret Burns and Mary-Louise with Tig, and Brian Sherman with Jelly Bean.



Funding Your Pet's Medical Bills

By Krysta Chapman

When it comes to your favorite furry friends, most would agree that the sky is the limit in regards to pet care and health. Whether it's a brand-new pet or longtime companion, these animals quickly know how to leave an everlasting mark on our hearts. From quality food to nontoxic treats and toys, you think of everything to keep your pets happy and safe – and that doesn't have to stop at pet insurance policies.

For pet owners, it is an easy decision to get pet insurance to ensure they'll have financial support in the unfortunate event that their pet is injured or suffers an illness.

As one veterinarian from Mount Pleasant Animal Hospital put it, "These days we have a specialist for every part of the pet's body – much like medicine for humans – and, as the industry advances with internists, cardiologists and more, it tends to get expensive."

Having pet insurance helps people afford the quality care they need for their pets, including the various diagnostics that often help veterinarians determine exactly what the problem might be.

A veterinarian from Tidewater Veterinary in Mount Pleasant agreed, saying: "It makes health care more accessible, and I even have it for three of my own pets."

Pet insurance is often overlooked when owners cannot afford the monthly payments for "possible occurrences." Dr. David Steele with Advanced Animal Care suggested starting a pet fund as soon as you bring your pet home.

"Talk to a financial advisor as to what form of savings account works best for you," he said. "Consider how accessible the money needs to be and what your usual monthly budget can absorb if a significant medical condition should arise. Set aside, for example, \$30 to \$40 per month. That amount accumulates into a nice 'medical savings' rather quickly."

Over time, you will either have saved a comfortable fund for unfortunate events pertaining to your pet or be able to start paying monthly toward pet insurance, depending on your needs.

Ultimately, it's about making the best decisions that lead to the highest quality of care for your beloved furry friends. With pet insurance, you can sleep easy knowing that if an accident happens or an unexpected illness arises, your four-legged pal will receive top-notch medical care no matter the circumstances or cost.



THE SHELTER KITCHEN AND BAR



East Cooper A Nonprofit For Our Four-Legged Friends By Krysta Chapman

I would be willing to bet that most of us have enjoyed the companionship and comfort of a four-legged, furry friend at some point in our lives. From the family dog growing up to the aging cat that settles into life right alongside all of our twists and turns of adulthood, one thing is certain – our beloved animals are more like family than pets.

So it should be of no surprise that the amazing staff at

Advanced Animal Care is looking to find new ways to reach out to the community and provide additional services to help keep animals as healthy as possible.

The newest of these services is in fact not a service but a full-fledged nonprofit, meant to help people with circumstantial issues that become a deterrent for proper pet care.

East Cooper Pet Relief – the official name of the charitable organization headed by Dr. Leslie Steele – is bringing more than just hope and checkups to the Charleston area, however, with a major focus being the critical number of stray cats and dogs that populate

the Lowcountry. As a result, Dr. Steele and her team will be providing spay and neuter services for family pets and strays alike, hoping to take a bite out of the dog-and-cat population explosion.

Recalling a quote from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals a few years back, Steele said, "For there to be no homeless pets in the United States, every single man, woman and child would have to have

seven personal pets – and it's only gotten worse since then."

Dr. Steele said it's more than people simply not caring. The problem often is due to circumstances such as unwanted breeding or animals that are in poor health. Sometimes it is an issue of not having the funds to pay for the care, while for people it comes down to their access to transportation especially for the elderly.

> Hopefully, East Cooper Pet Relief, set up specifically to help pet owners with low incomes or no means of transportation, will lead to better health for pets with homes and fewer animals without homes.

> "It's so important that people continue to have their pets alongside of them - especially the senior community that depends on the companionship of these animals," said Dr. Steele, who sees a bright future for East Cooper Pet Relief and is looking forward to planned fundraisers and even to the prospect of making the organization a mobile venture sometime soon.

I think we can all agree that the animals that come into our lives make a dramatic impact on us. Whether you've had a puppy from its birth, adopted an older animal from a shelter or simply befriended the neighborhood cat, there is a special place in all of our hearts for the simplistic and honest love of an animal. Now, thanks to Dr. Steele and her team at Advanced Animal Care, we can help take care of these furry friends better than ever before. **



GETTING TO KNOW OUR PETS ____FACETIME





Name: Maverick.

Lives in: Carolina Park.

Owners: The Fitches.

Breed: Gray tabby.

Profession: Food critic – if anything is different about the food I eat, I will find out about it, and

I won't eat it.

Favorite toy: My ball wheel with cardboard to scratch in the middle is the best - except the

cardboard keeps disappearing, and I can't eat the ball.

Favorite flavor for treats: Turkey.

Dislikes: Brooms; vacuums; and being ignored - especially when I'm hungry.

Interests: Boxes, garbage bags, laundry baskets, birds, eating plastic and live piano music. **Favorite place:** The back porch, the front porch, my owners' bed and actually any room my family's

all in, but don't tell them I said that. They can't know I like them that much.

Name: Penny. Owners: The Carrolls. Lives in: Dunes West. Breed: Carolina dog.

Profession: Passive-aggressive house guard.

Favorite toy: A little dog that pants and barks when I chew the "squeak."

Favorite flavor for treats: Peanut butter.

Dislikes: Packaging – it keeps me from getting into people food; swimming – I can't stand to

get my face wet!

Interests: Bags; groceries; anything that I can sniff but can't see inside of. **Favorite place:** Empty fields; any place I can just run and run and run!

Pet role model: White Fang – I'm hard to tame, but I wish I was as independent as he is.





Name: Luna. Owners: The Cadys.

Lives in: Hamlin Plantation. Breed: Rescue puppy.

Profession: Moonwatcher. I'm practicing my howls for when I grow up.

Favorite toy: Whatever my brother Harley wants to play with – I love to snatch it away!

Favorite flavor for treats: Peanut butter.

Dislikes: Being left alone; being without my brother Harley; new moons. **Interests:** Playing with toys; hanging out with my family; the lunar calendar.

Favorite place: Nose-deep in my food bowl. Pet role model: Isn't it obvious? Harley!

Name: Mia. Owner: The Burkes.

Lives in: Dunes West. Breed: American shorthair.

Profession: Babysitter – but I let the people think they're in charge.

Favorite toy: Furniture.

Favorite flavor for treats: Beef and chicken. I actually hate seafood – so much for stereotypes.

Dislikes: Dogs; crowds; loud noises; cheap treats. **Interests:** Cat comics; stair exercises; dust bunnies.

Favorite place: The porch!

Pet role model: Garfield. All he ever does is eat and be lazy – and who wouldn't want that life?





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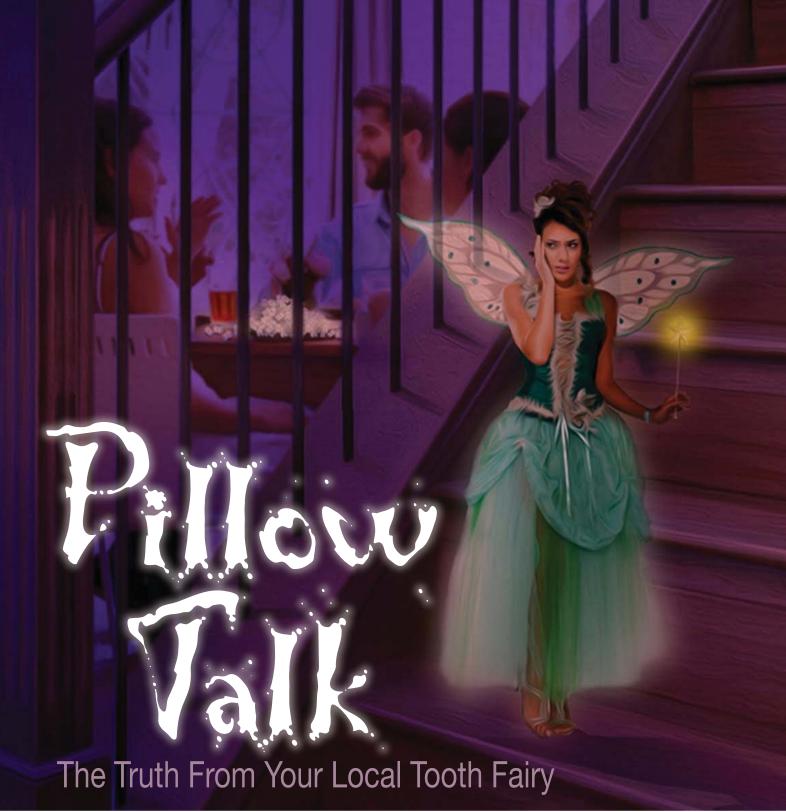


Illustration by John Chitwood.

Editor's Note: Children are always talking about the tooth fairy, but not many adults really know the real scoop. That's why we decided to get the name, phone number and email address of a former Mount Pleasant Tooth Fairy from a willing East Cooper family that chose to remain anonymous – you'll understand why in a few minutes – and ask if she would write an essay for us about being the town's most well-known winged being. Read on, and remember to brush.





ike any job, being a Tooth Fairy comes with its advantages and disadvantages. The advantages are what most of us think about and what keep most of us working – the opportunity to slip into a window in the middle of the night and wedge a crisp dollar bill (or more, or less, depending on the child's report) beneath a fluffy pillow; to flutter among bright stars on a warm South Carolina evening; to change my outfit according to my mood (we fairies have killer closets); and to know the DNA of every child I've ever loved.

Those are all great perks of the gig, don't get me wrong. But when *Mount Pleasant Magazine* asked me to pen an essay about my life as the local Tooth Fairy for their annual *Smiling Faces* supplement, I decided I'd better keep it real.

And the real deal is that being the Tooth Fairy can be hard sometimes. I'm not just talking about the gross stuff, like when a kid hasn't brushed in a while and the particular tooth falls out of his mouth looking all fuzzy and I have to pick it up — or, worse, when a tooth is caked in dried blood and I have to stop and take the tiny vial of hand sanitizer out of my glittery dress and douse myself before the grimy little brat stirs from slumber. Nope, I'm talking about the part of my life that you might call a little bit ... gangster. I mean, did you think we local Tooth Fairies get to keep ALL of the teeth we collect for ourselves — or that we somehow come up with ALL the money we dole out without the help of other fairies who are higher up on the hierarchy? Well, think again. It can be a mighty risky business.

I guess I should start by explaining how I became a Tooth Fairy for Mount Pleasant. I was an ordinary fairy beforehand, doing things like sniffing flowers and hanging out with other fairies. Then I was approached one afternoon by this sinister-looking fairy sitting in a gigantic plant outside of a dentist's office whose name won't be mentioned. The fairy motioned me over. I cautiously approached, and he spoke in a whisper.

"You up for engaging in a little business?"

"What kind of business?" I asked with one brow raised.

"Oh, don't worry; it's wholesome. Being a Tooth Fairy. I know the main guy in Charleston County, and they need a new gal for these parts. You look perfect for the part."

He explained what I would have to do – deliver cash to kids (their parents would decide on the amount, based on conduct), then pick up the teeth and deliver them to the Head Fairy in Charleston County, who would sell the teeth on the black market. (You can really do that. Look it up.) The money made from the teeth would pay fellow tooth fairies, fund our supply closet and, of course, go to kids whose parents were financially strapped.

It sounded good to me – a great way to give back to



the community. I didn't think I was asking for trouble, so I signed up. And, for a while, it wasn't any trouble at all. Parents were communicating according to the rules, the Head Fairy was getting his teeth and kids were smiling their gappy grins. Then a few new families moved into the area and decided they didn't want to play by the rules. That's when the job started to, shall we say, bite back.

Typically, losing baby teeth is an exciting time both for parents and children. Moms and dads are eager to meet the Tooth Fairy as soon as their kids start dropping teeth. Whenever I see a "Sold" sign on a front lawn and a minivan in the driveway, I start making phone calls and introducing myself. However, one day I noticed more and more of my calls were ending up in voice mails instead of chats with excited parents. I figured that perhaps my

"As long as that Head Fairy minds his own beeswax, we can split the profit between ourselves."

intuition was off, but, upon closer inspection, most of these neighborhoods had young kids in the front yard – prime tooth losing age. I kept trying to call these homes, but I never got any answers. This was acceptable when it was one home or two every few weeks, but when half of every other street wasn't doing business, I knew my higherups would soon start making a fuss.

So I decided to search for answers. I Googled the address for one of the newer homes that had given me the silent treatment and planned my investigation. In the middle of the night, I fluttered from my leafy bungalow in the Old Village, past Coleman and Shem Creek and into a quiet backyard. An open window on the second floor caught my eye, and I rushed through. Inside were four kids; a quick survey of their snoring mouths revealed

a few gaps in each set. Shortly after, I heard voices from downstairs. I crept down the hall and peeked past a corner in the stairwell. What I saw astounded me. A whole cabal of parents sitting around a dining room table, with a gigantic pile of baby teeth between them!

"Well ..." started one clearly apprehensive father. "This all sounds fine and dandy, but what about overhead?"

A burly man in his 30s chuckled, "As long as that Head Fairy minds his own beeswax, we can split the profit between ourselves. We've been working this business for nearly a year now, and it sure beats my wife having to sell Pampered Chef."

It only took me a few seconds to realize what was happening. These moms and dads were cutting out the fairies entirely and selling the teeth for themselves! I flew out of there as soon as I could, not knowing what they would do if they caught me.

But I have to admit, I was hooked after that. I wanted to see who all was involved in this scheme – just how many families from the Mount Pleasant community were breaking the rules. So I started going back to that first house when I really shouldn't have. Not only was I jeopardizing my own safety, I was skirting my responsibilities. I could have been making calls and meeting new families – instead, I was eavesdropping. That's the thing about business. You gotta pound the pavement for yourself, not worry about what everyone else is doing.

Soon enough, my higher-ups realized I wasn't producing as many teeth as they saw fit for Mount Pleasant.

"You've only got five molars for this whole month?" the Head Fairy bellowed at me over his cup of fermented dandelion wine. "Seriously, what is going on? There's way too many master-planned communities in Mount Pleasant that are teeming with kids under 12 for this to be the case."

He took a long sip of wine. His eyes were already bloodshot.



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"I might send another fairy out with you. ... maybe you need help tackling the area. ..."

"No," I interjected. "I'm fine. I'll try harder. I'm just ... having a hard time getting in touch."

He finally nodded. "All right. You have 30 days to figure it out and boost your productivity. Go!"

He waved me away as if I were a common housefly. Back at my bungalow, I thought long and hard about our discussion. I felt like I should take drastic action. I made up my mind to actually make my presence known to these wayward families. I would have to crash their next meeting, tell them they were breaking the rules and see if they were willing to work with me. It was dangerous, but what did I have to lose, honestly? If I got fired from my job as Tooth Fairy, maybe I could just go back to hanging out in flowers.

Two days later, it was Thursday, their typical time to meet. First, I transformed my height from five inches to about five feet. Then I dressed in a rather human-looking outfit – a simple shift dress, a long coat to hide my wings, at least for the time being, and a snazzy wristwatch. At meeting time, I walked into the front door of the house and took a seat at the oak table, wearing sunglasses so they couldn't see my purple irises.

"Hey. Who're you?" demanded the ringleader father who spoke the first night.

I cleared my throat, preparing to drop an octave.

"I'm Farrah. I just moved here. I have a son named Sam who's 8 years old. I was told that you guys can help me make some cash on the side. I'm a single mother."

They looked at me suspiciously.

"I just had cataract surgery," I quickly added.

They seemed satisfied with the explanation. Their discussion went on about Craigslist postings and the price they were asking per tooth. Suddenly, the lady of the house came around the table toward me. The way she looked at me made me nervous.

"Let me take your coat for you," she said.

"No. I'm cold," I insisted – but she started yanking it off my shoulders! The coat was balled up in her arms before I knew it, and my two sparkling wings were revealed.

"I knew it!" she shrieked. "My son told me that he saw you in his window! You're the Tooth Fairy, and you've been spying on us!"

Her husband got up from his chair: "Anna, there's no such thing as a Tooth Fairy," he reassured her. "I think you've had too much Tito's. This is just a single mother, dressed up in a costume. She's clearly an exotic dancer or something."





I took off my glasses; I'd rather be myself than an exotic dancer!

"No, your wife is right. I'm a fairy."

The husband backed a few feet away from me. His eyes were wild. My instincts told me to get out of there, but I was hungrily waiting for something to happen. I was foolish. Then his left hand slowly went underneath the oak dining table, and, when he brought it back out, he was holding a gun.

Now it was my turn to back up. I looked around for a door, a window, any escape. The wife, Anna, was silent in the corner, her face white as chalk.

"In the name of the father, the son and the holy spirit, there are no such things as fairies," the husband preached.

His voice was like a sonic boom as he pointed the

pistol at my face.

I concentrated. I hadn't made myself disappear in a while, and I was out of practice. Luckily, it worked. I heard the gunshot from the midair of Coleman Boulevard, somewhere high above the house. I was safe.

Naturally, I resigned a few days later, once I had my bearings.

"I'm truly sorry," I told the Head Fairy, placing the tooth-shaped ID card into his palm. "I thought I was cut out for this job. I'm clearly not."

He nodded. "I noticed."

I tried not to bristle at his response. "If you need me to train a new applicant, I will," I offered.

"Nah," he said. "I've trained tons of them myself. I've never had an issue – until you."

I wanted to tell him everything! But I didn't. I figured he would eventually find out that the problem was not me.

"OK," I said. "Good luck."

He smiled at me, his face gleaming in the streetlights. I went home and put my feet up. I knew someone, someday would discover the truth.



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DR. CASON T. HUND

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n a tightknit community like Mount Pleasant, word of mouth is one of the most important ways to grow a business. So when Dr. Cason Hund opened Wando Family Dentistry in 2014, he worked hard to build a network of patients in the area by starting close to home.

Dr. Hund is a local through and through; he grew up on James Island, went to Porter-Gaud School, earned his

undergraduate degree at Clemson and graduated from the MUSC College of Dental Medicine. After finishing school, Dr. Hund chose to open his practice close to where he grew up.

"I love the area; it's always been good to me, and I love the community," he said, adding that being surrounded by friends and family played a crucial role in helping him grow the practice. "I've got a good support network. My family comes to me and they send their friends, then the word gets around town."

When the practice first opened, Dr. Hund made sure to take care of his friends, who were fresh out of college and in what he calls the "dental blind spot of the 20s." As those friends found success, they continued to see Dr. Hund at Wando Family Dentistry and have become some of his most loyal patients.

After being open for almost four years, the practice is regarded as one of the best in Mount Pleasant. Dr.

Hund works hard to give back to the community that has supported him by volunteering with several local organizations in the area, including East Cooper Community Outreach and the Charleston Free Clinic.

"I'm home, serving the community that I grew up in," he explained.

Wando Family Dentistry has built a strong reputation in Mount Pleasant and has even been named one of *Mount Pleasant Magazine's* best dentists. To preserve this status, Dr. Hund and his staff strive to maintain a comprehensive family practice where everyone feels comfortable. He follows one simple rule when it comes to his patients: "I treat everyone as I would want to be treated. That includes their teeth, their time, their feelings and their money."

To do this, the staff focuses on preventive care, which helps patients avoid future problems that could cost them valuable time and money. The staff treats patients just like the friends and family who helped kick-start the practice by making their visits as comfortable as possible and working to maximize insurance payouts to keep costs low.

As the practice continues to grow, Dr. Hund is always looking for ways to improve, like increasing the staff and expanding the office space. Wando Family Dentistry is planning to break ground soon on a new office in Park West, which is set to open in 2018. The new location is poised to be much more convenient for patients, which is the primary goal of Dr. Hund and his staff as they move forward in the building process.

"We are building a new, state-of-the-art office to better serve our patients," he said.









Trash or Treasure

ost children have a total of 20 baby teeth. At around 6 months of age, the first of 20 sharp chompers appear, 10 on the top and another 10 on the bottom. Technically known as deciduous teeth, they act as placeholders for the adult teeth that grow in after the baby teeth fall out.

Losing a tooth can often be painful or traumatic for a child. For some, the idea of

BY STACY E. DOMINGO a child. For som

losing a part of themselves is upsetting. To lessen the fear, in North America, parents turned to offering a small token or payment for the tooth. Hence, the tooth fairy was created and became a wildly successful way of easing the pain.

"The tooth fairy is a great way to help children not to fear but to take an interest or look forward to losing a tooth," explained Dr. Dorothy Baker, pediatric dentist and owner of Summerville Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics. "Saving lost baby teeth is a special habit in our culture and is wildly popular as well as widely accepted. We even have tooth fairy dolls that mimic The Elf on the Shelf"."

In medieval Europe, tradition dictated that the baby's tooth be buried right away to prevent a witch from taking ownership. It was thought that if a witch were to acquire the tooth, she might be able to obtain total power over the child. In Norse culture, soldiers going into battle wore children's teeth because they were believed to be a source of good luck.

The concept of saving or storing a child's tooth is practiced around the world and in many different cultures. Today, many parents add the caveat that the tooth fairy won't pay for decayed teeth, only for healthy ones – another reason to brush them three times a day.

School nurses often send home a child's tooth in a



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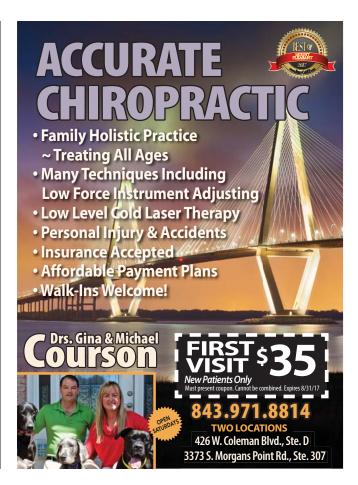
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plastic molar necklace. Students proudly show off the necklace to their friends and can't wait to place it under their pillow that evening. In 2013, Visa Inc. conducted a survey that found American children receive an average \$3.70 per tooth.

One mother creatively stocks \$2 bills and gives them as a gift from the tooth fairy. In the past, candy was the preferred gift, but most parents have drifted away from

TOOTH FAIRY RECEIPT
NAME
AGE
DATE
QUALITY OF TOOTH
PAYMENT TOTAL: SIFNATURE:

this practice in order to protect the precious adult teeth that are about to follow.

One child even received a partially used gift card under his pillow, indicating that receiving something – anything – for a used tooth is more important than what is actually given.

So while most families have accepted the tooth fairy tradition, storing your children's teeth presents somewhat of a conundrum, especially if you have more than one child. How do you hide 20, 40 or 60 teeth in a dresser or medicine cabinet? What to do with all of those teeth? Sandwich bags? Envelopes? A glass jar? Parents have chosen many different paths, from the garbage can to a keepsake box, necklaces or cute items such as a pirate treasure chest box.

"In our practice, we give tooth fairy boxes when we pull them, but parents have many options. There are many cute internet sites that provide options for storing teeth," said Dr. Baker. Within the past decade, some parents have opted to extract, freeze and cryopreserve their children's baby teeth in hopes that one day stem cells may be acquired from the preserved teeth.

Dr. Will MacDonald, dentist and co-owner of Kids Teeth, explained that "while the use of stem cells is growing to treat more diseases and injuries, it is still in its infancy. There are limited facilities that will properly preserve and store baby teeth for the future."

Preserving teeth can cost hundreds to thousands of dollars as well as a monthly fee. Dental stem cells are adult stem cells found in wisdom teeth and baby teeth, which can differentiate into bone, dental tissue, cartilage, muscle, neural and other cell types. Teeth are being studied for applications in regenerative medicine and dentistry.

"This field shows a lot of promise in the future, but further achievements need to occur before this becomes a



widely accepted procedure," continued Dr. MacDonald. "To date, the only reason to preserve the baby teeth is for future stem cell treatment. Otherwise, some families elect to save the baby teeth for scrapbooks and shadowboxes."

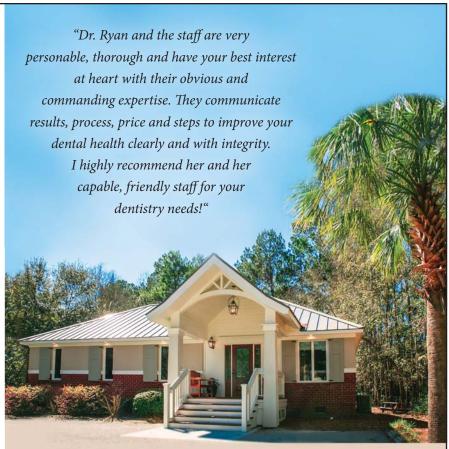
So if your child is close to losing a tooth, be sure to continue brushing it until it is removed or falls out so that an infection does not set in. Then, be prepared to be visited by a winged fairy delivering cash in the middle of the night.

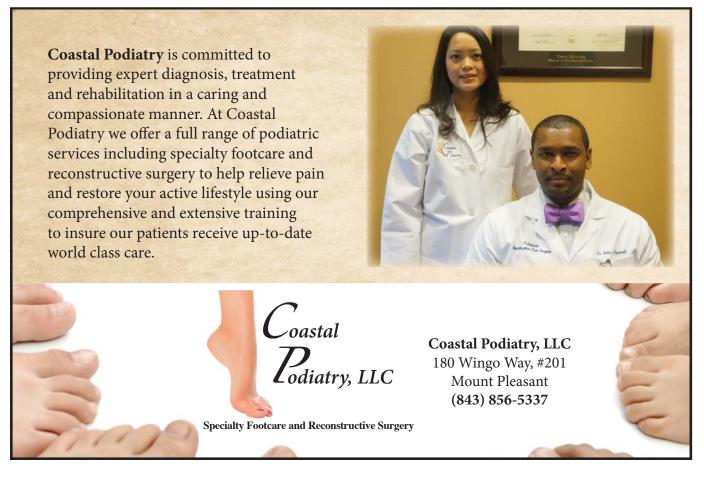




Dr. Kari Ryan and Dr. Kristi Dillard

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DR. KARI RYAN DR. KRISTI DILLARD

Kari Ryan Dentistry

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t's usually the first thing others notice – your smile is your calling card. In a world of fading trends, having pearly whites is one look that never goes out of style.

In addition to offering top-of-the-line care, Kari Ryan Dentistry makes all who journey through its doors feel like family. Warm, accessible and

BY KALENE MCCORT

fully committed to customer satisfaction, they consistently

deliver the very best results. Whether you are looking for a thorough cleaning or a cosmetic procedure, these professionals make the process enjoyable from start to finish. With a sincere staff committed to staying up on the latest industry practices, it's clear to see why so many flock to this office.

"I have always been interested in science and medicine, and originally I wanted to be a veterinarian," said Dr. Ryan. "I've also always loved art. So when I discovered the unique blend of science and art with dentistry, I had found my true calling."

There is creativity to creating perfectly aligned smiles, and Dr. Ryan and her team are skilled in crafting megawatt grins. From veneers to removable dentures, the options they offer patients who wish to transform their smiles are vast. Kari Ryan Dentistry is there to help you decipher the best option. From toddlers to teens, all ages are welcome at this practice that prides itself on going the

extra mile to assure an above-average visit.

"I want patients to feel comfortable, well taken care of and actually excited about keeping their smiles and bodies healthy," said Dr. Ryan.

Her compassionate nature isn't just extended to those who step foot in her Mount Pleasant office. When she isn't looking at X-rays and reminding folks to floss, you can find her devoting her time and skill set to clinics where people who don't always have the funds to cover dental procedures can finally receive the care they need.

"I hold myself to a high standard of professionalism, compassion and dental expertise, and I surround myself with a team of skilled people who do the same," said Dr. Ryan. "So our whole office exudes this great level of care. It is so rewarding to connect with people about their health and self-image once we've gained their trust. Changing a person's smile can truly change their life, which is so fulfilling to be a part of."

Just one glimpse into the many client testimonials of Dr. Ryan's patients and it's evident that the level of care she provides is something you just can't find in other practices.

"It is so fun to be around town with my family and run into patients of the practice," said Dr. Ryan. "I try to sponsor or support patients whenever I can. We have the most amazing patients, so I love being a part of their lives, whether it is in the office or out."

As for advice she gives to others seeking a bright career in dentistry, Dr. Ryan recommends looking below the surface.

"For the aspiring dentist, I would suggest the key to success is connecting with your patients and taking the time to get to know the whole person, not just their mouth," said Dr. Ryan.



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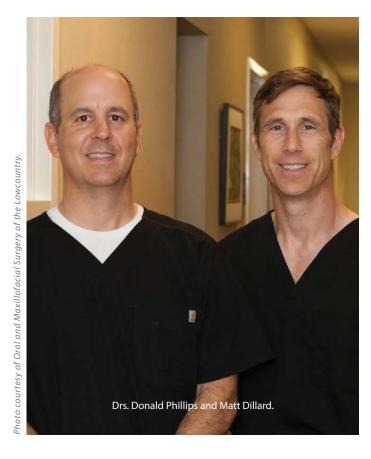
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Isits to the dentist have historically been perceived as a worrisome experience for many. The fear created by a painful tooth and the thought of having it removed has created a stereotype that associates going to the dentist with pain.

The phrase "I'd rather have my tooth pulled" is often

RY KATIF WELLS

used when referencing an activity in which one does not want

to participate.

Thanks to Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery of the Low-country, you no longer have to worry about painful visits to the dentist. At this Charleston-based practice, a wide array of dental services are offered in a professional and caring environment by Dr. Matt Dillard and Dr. Donald Phillips, both board-certified oral and maxillofacial surgeons with over 15 years of experience each. The goal of this Lowcountry practice is to make its patients feel relaxed and comfortable while the surgeons and staff take care of their dental needs. Dental services offered range from dental implants, wisdom tooth extractions, bone grafting, repair of facial trauma and biopsies to orthognathic surgery, where the relationship of the upper and lower jaws do not properly align.

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery of the Lowcountry specializes in dental implants, the most dependable and innovative way to replace natural teeth. They can be used

many different ways. They can replace a single tooth, multiple teeth or a full set of teeth. The dental implant serves as the root of the tooth and is placed within the bone after a tooth is removed. When a single missing tooth is replaced by an implant, a crown is placed on the implant to restore function and esthetics.

When many or all teeth are missing, dental implants may be used to attach removable dentures, as well as support teeth that are permanently seated into place. Dental implants have totally changed the idea that a lost tooth is lost forever.

Another appealing service offered at the practice is sedation during dental treatment. Most patients prefer to have treatment while in a state of relaxed sleep. Dr. Dillard and Dr. Phillips are board-certified and trained in administering IV sedation. This procedure allows patients to be unaware during the procedure and have little memory of it once it's over. Sedation is particularly helpful for those who are hypersensitive to sensations and sounds. For patients who don't want deep sedation, the practice also offers nitrous oxide sedation – laughing gas – as well as conscious sedation with medications. Local anesthetics are used in every surgical procedure to numb the tissues in the area of treatment.

The patient's experience is of utmost importance to Dr. Dillard, Dr. Phillips and their entire team.

"We strive to make our patients comfortable by staffing only the most knowledgeable, qualified and caring personnel," Dr. Dillard said. "We are dedicated to your health and well-being and committed to providing the latest surgical techniques to help each and every patient reach their goals."

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"I feel that dental treatment is an excellent investment in an individual's medical and psychological well-being," Dr. Garner said.

Their passion for helping others is what motivates Dr. Garner and her team every day, and they consider it a true privilege to care for their patient family.

Dr. Garner's team provides a wide range of dental options for their patients. From comprehensive hygiene and cosmetic fillings to the latest in veneers and implants, Dr. Garner said she truly enjoys the art of restoring, preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of smiles using state-of-the-art technology. From small children to aging patients, Dr. Garner understands not only the importance of a customized treatment plan but also the necessity of forming genuine relationships. No matter who is sitting in her chair that day, every patient is incredibly special to her. She said many of her patients have also been with her from the start, which is a fantastic testimony to the quality of care and service provided at Garner Family Dentistry.

To continue providing the best service possible and remaining current with OSHA policies, Dr. Garner's practice uses the latest technology, including digital X-rays to minimize the exposure to radiation and to reduce the risk of harsh film chemicals for the environment. Their dedication to "best industry practices" is evident in their decision to employ a professional sterilization monitoring company and therefore meet and exceed the highest sterilization and safety ratings for their patients.

To know Dr. Garner is to know a true friend and champion of dental health. At the end of the day, nothing makes Dr. Garner happier than to see her patients proud of their smiles, some for the first time in a long while. If you are looking for a caring dentist who puts you first, look no further than Dr. Cynthia Garner.

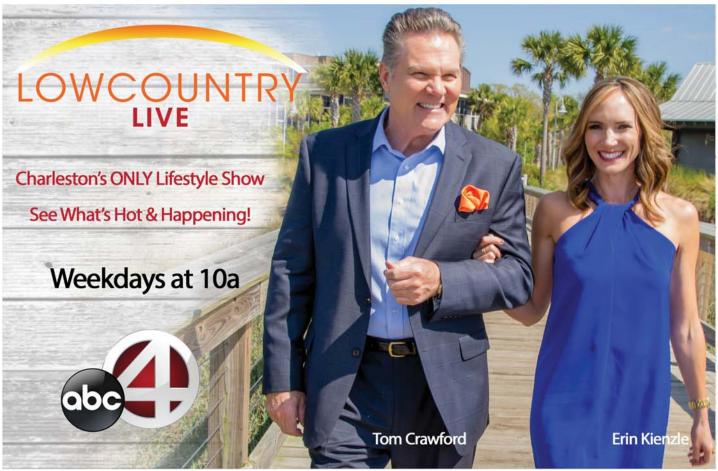
r. Cynthia Garner has been practicing dentistry for over 22 years, with Garner Family Dentistry recently celebrating 10 years in Mount Pleasant. Now, with a decade under her belt here in the Lowcountry, Dr. Garner feels very much at home helping patients improve their smiles so they can feel good about themselves.

"I absolutely love dentistry and enjoy enhancing the confidence of others with a smile. There is nothing that brings me more personal satisfaction than helping my patients achieve their goals to look and feel good about themselves," she commented.

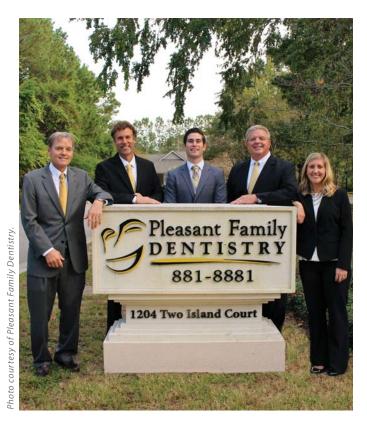
Dr. Garner started her dental career in her hometown of Omaha, Nebraska, at Creighton University. She then went on to receive her advanced degree from Temple University in Philadelphia and truly hasn't stopped learning since. She prides herself on staying current with the latest techniques and procedures in dentistry. In addition to 100 hours annually in continuing education, she is a member of the American Dental Association, South Carolina Dental Association and Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry.

With her phenomenal staff at her side at Garner Family Dentistry – many of them have been with her since she started her practice – they help their patients to be the healthiest versions of themselves in every way possible.









DR. RICK JACKOWSKI
DR. GREG JOHNSON
DR. LAUREN CALLISON
DR. STEVEN CHRISTOFAKIS
DR. BRIAN BRACKEN

Pleasant Family Dentistry 1204 Two Island Court Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 843-881-8881 www.pleasantfamilydentistry.com

diagnosing other dental problems the patient may have," said Dr. Jackowski, who has practiced since 1989.

The new age of 3D dentistry produces more precise images in a time-efficient manner. This method also limits the patient's exposure to radiation compared to previous methods. This new advancement will enable the dentists at Pleasant Family Dentistry to see nerves and infections more clearly to ensure proper treatment.

Pleasant Family Dentistry welcomes newcomers to the area and actively helps in acquiring information from previous dentists so that better treatment can be provided.

"Our goal is to make the transition as smooth as possible," said Dr. Jackowski. "We want all of our patients to be informed decision-makers and fully understand any oral health issues they may have and what treatments may be available to them. We also strive to deliver this information in a timely manner by our caring and compassionate team."

Patients should go to the dentist at least twice a year for checkups and preventive care because cavities and gum disease are preventable. Regular visits to Pleasant Family Dentistry can detect any early signs of disease and problems can be treated at a manageable stage.

All of the doctors at Pleasant Family Dentistry are kind and caring and believe in continuing education to keep up with the constant improvements in technology and standards of care.

"We strive for excellence in everything we do," said Dr. Jackowski.

Pleasant Family Dentistry has a website, www. pleasantfamilydentistry.com, filled with valuable information about dental health problems and their approach to practicing modern dentistry in a soothing, relaxed and compassionate environment. To schedule an appointment, call 843-491-8995 or visit them in person at 1204 Two Island Court.

leasant Family Dentistry has been a leader in the dental industry for almost 30 years and has been named "Best Dentist" by the readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine* five years in a row. Started by Drs. Richard Jackowski and Gregory Johnson

BY STACY DOMINGO

in 1989, Pleasant Family Dentistry now has five doctors

and continues to grow.

Together, they actively strive for optimum oral health for their patients that can be maintained for a lifetime. Combine that with a staff that is constantly training with onsite consultants and the result is better service for new and existing patients.

"We have the ability to meet all of your dental needs under one roof," said Dr. Jackowski, co-owner of Pleasant Family Dentistry. "We offer general dentistry, implants, orthodontics, oral surgery and IV sedation."

To accommodate this well-ordered dental practice, Pleasant Family Dentistry is undergoing a massive expansion to increase the number of treatment rooms, add surgical suites and enhance the patient experience. The practice is actively looking for another general dentist to join their compassionate team, which offers treatment six days a week.

"With the expansion, we are installing the latest stateof-the-art 3D scanning equipment that will allow us to treatment plan implants and orthodontic needs as well as







"Such a professional and caring staff! They go out of their way to make my experience pleasant. I am so happy with my smile now that I have completed my Invisalign treatment and whitening. I would not trust my dental care to anyone but Dr. Dahlkemper and her staff!"

- Sheryll J., Patient

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DR. NICOLE DAHLKEMPER

Water's Edge Family Dentistry 1203 Two Island Court, Suite 101 Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 843-884-6166 www.watersedgesc.com

above and beyond for her community, Dr. Dahlkemper regularly volunteers her time and expertise at the East Cooper Community Outreach free dental clinic, which provides dental services, cleanings and prescription assistance to low-income families throughout the Charleston area.

At Water's Edge Dentistry, Dr. Dahlkemper and her team work with passion and good old Southern hospitality, as they warmly invite local patients in for an array of dental services ranging from cleanings and fillings to restoration, cosmetic dentistry and oral cancer screenings. Additionally, Dr. Dahlkemper and her staff work hard to create a comfortable atmosphere for children, understanding how difficult first-time visits can be for the youngest of their patients.

When Dr. Dahlkemper and her team aren't in the office, their passion continues to motivate their desire to learn, landing them at various dental education courses, conferences and seminars throughout the year to stay on top of new dental advances. As such, Water's Edge Dentistry is excited to introduce cutting edge technology with the addition of a brand-new, non-surgical procedure that utilizes a laser to reduce and possibly eliminate snoring all together.

A quote often heard throughout the office from Dr. Dahlkemper says, "We are put on this Earth to be a blessing to others" – which she learned in her early years of schooling. And while many years may have passed, it's obvious to everyone surrounding the Mount Pleasant practice that this is a group of talented and compassionate individuals who continue to hold themselves to the principles of serving others. Their friendly professionalism and commitment to helping people achieve top-notch dental health is evident in every service they offer. Whether it's a new patient or someone who has been visiting Water's Edge Dentistry since it opened, every person who walks in through the door walks out as family.

alk into Water's Edge Dentistry any day of the week, and you'll be welcomed by the smiling faces of Dr. Nicole Dahlkemper and her team. The practice, located in Mount Pleasant, has been her home ever since moving from Washington, D.C., where she worked shortly after earning her Doctor of Medicine.

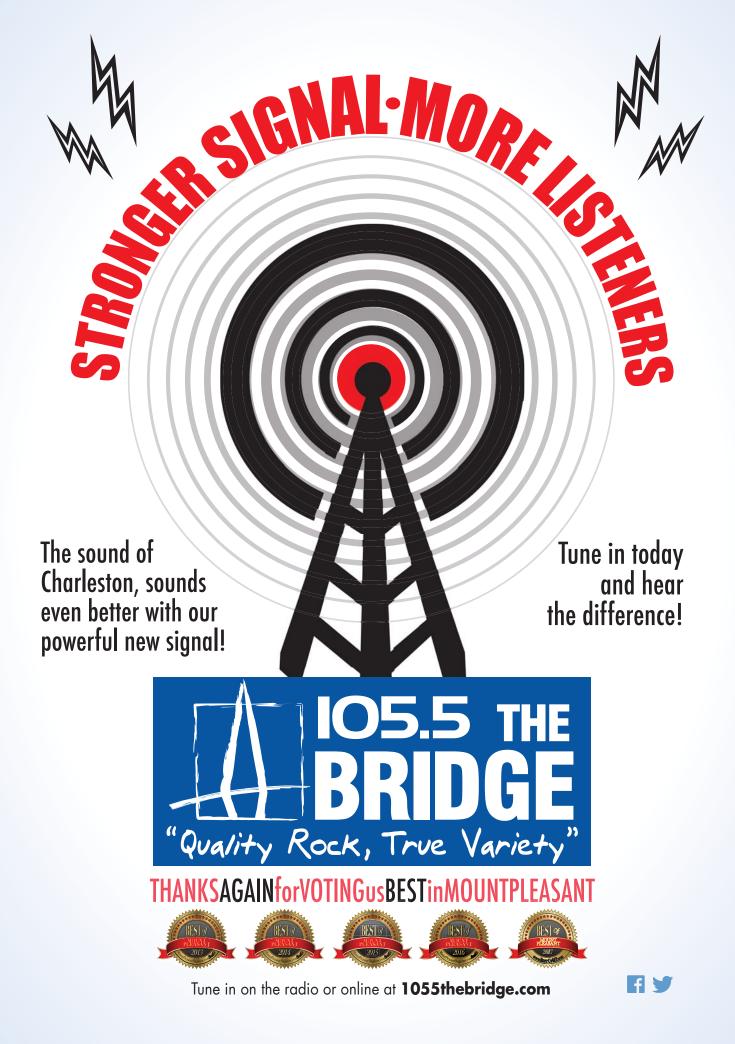
she worked shortly after earning her Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry.

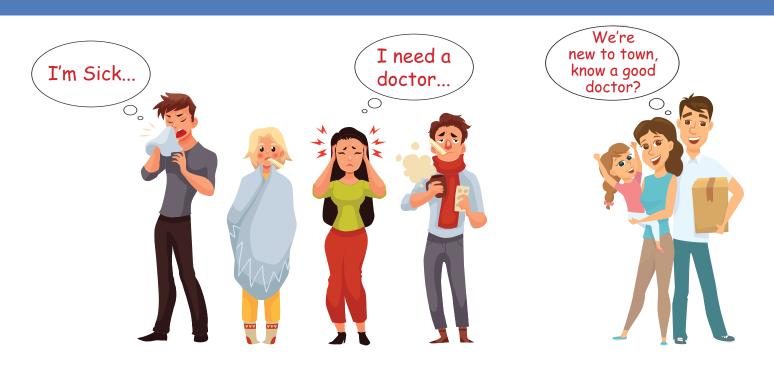
And while Dr. Dahlkemper loves her job – and the

path it has taken her down – it wasn't her initial plan after

graduating with honors from Allegheny College with a degree in Biological Neuroscience. But as life would have it, the young hopeful that once saw herself with a career in cardiovascular surgery fell in love with the work in dentistry she saw during rotations. Following her own health scare and undergoing heart surgery, Dr. Dahlkemper took advantage of a fantastic opportunity that ultimately led her to the Lowcountry.

As a longtime community participant – and now new mother – Dr. Dahlkemper knows how important it is to truly make an impact through her work and relationships. While providing impeccable service to her patients, she also works hard to establish meaningful connections with the people who help her to continue loving what she does day in and day out. Continuing her dedication to going





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Less to Do, Mare to Enjoy

Tides IV Offers Residents the Good Life

BY DENISE K. JAMES



hat makes life enjoyable is time spent out in the world enjoying relationships with others. Chats over morning coffee, dinners, friendly card games and quality time with friends or family all are important. That's why Tides IV, a luxury condominium at the foot of the Ravenel Bridge on Charleston Harbor, offers residents the



opportunity for shorter to-do lists and longer hours of leisure. For those looking to downsize from larger homes, the opportunity to have ample space and less maintenance is a key reason for happiness.

Residents Karen and Bob O'Neill knew that condo living at Tides IV offered exactly what they wanted: plenty of space, waterfront views, convenience and the chance to make new friends. The O'Neills have four grown daughters and a number of grandchildren. Yet downsizing from a large home in Mount Pleasant seemed logical with two of their children living locally. The couple also enjoys frequent travel, and the maintenance of a large home and yard had grown to be less appealing.

"We were previously living on a cul-de-sac in Grassy







Looking for a change of scenery? Come see the spectacular views at Tides IV. From your floor-to-ceiling windows, you can watch egrets gliding over the marsh, see colorful ships on the Cooper River and, of course, remarkable sunsets. Owning a luxury residence at Tides IV also affords you the freedom from home maintenance so you can pursue adventure near and far. Treat yourself to a new view - and a convenient new lifestyle at Tides IV. Call 843.388.4681 to tour our designer model. Visit soon because limited residences remain.



Creek," Karen O'Neill said. "It was secluded. And living here is so social – we've enjoyed bridge, mah-jongg, dinners, wine tastings and even RiverDogs games with our new friends."

"This location is great," her husband added. "We're practically downtown."

"I like living by the waterfront," Karen shared, admitting that she finds watching the passing container ships on the harbor an exciting bonus.

The O'Neills' eclectic taste in decor radiates throughout their home, a mixture of "modern pieces and sentimental family items," according to Karen. Personal favorites include paintings by Carl Plantsky and local work by Betty Anglin Smith.

Corinne and John Morgan share a similar story to the O'Neills – they, too, wanted to downsize from a "big, custom-built house" in Beresford Hall, initially deciding to wait until road projects progressed. But when an acquaintance unexpectedly wanted to purchase the house sooner rather than later, they found Tides IV in a heartbeat and realized it met their needs.

"We like the three-bedroom layout; it fits most of our furniture," John pointed out.





Like the O'Neills, the Morgans have made the space their own. John Morgan, a developer with Kolter Homes, was impressed with the finer details of their new abode, and artwork ranging from "European to local" offers an air of stately elegance.

But perhaps what the Morgans most enjoy is the view of Charleston Harbor, often from their expansive porch.

"We face north," John Morgan explained. "It's the best view, and it brings in the best sunlight. And the third floor is ideal – close to the birds."

The Morgans enjoy inviting their grandchildren over, who "love going to the park and the pool." They're also making connections with friendly residents through the many amenities offered at Tides IV, including the on-site, state-of-the-art gym and the popular owner's retreat, where neighbors gather for morning coffee or weekly Friday night happy hours.





Carolina One

Real Estate

Dan and Laura Pape have added their newest team member, Lora Moore. Recently retired from her 37-year sales management career at Nabisco/Kraft/ Mondelez, Lora has become a buyer's agent for Team Pape. Having been a home buyer and seller several times as Lora relocated with her company, she brings an understanding of the numerous details involved with finding the ideal home. Lora's expertise in a comprehensive review and upfront planning offers an exceptional experience to buyers that seek their perfect home. Lora is delighted to join Dan and Laura Pape as

they expand their Team!

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Dunes West ~ The Harbour 2808 Stay Sail Way, Mt. Pleasant, SC 5,352 sf, 5bd 5ba, Pool \$1,088,000



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Dunes West Mount Pleasant, SC

_	ISTING AGENT STING COMPANY	SELLING AGENT SELLING COMPANY	SELLING DATE	PRICE PER SQUARE FOOT	SELLING PRICE
1)	Sam E. Haynes William Means	Renee Reinert Pote Iron Gate	4/28/2017	\$287.30	\$1,350,000
2)	Susan Cox Carolina One	Tiffany Hammond Brand Name	4/12/2017	\$302.68	\$1,300,000
3)	Matt O'Neill Matt O'Neill	Jan Snook Keller Williams	4/21/2017	\$256.23	\$1,275,000
4)	Sandra B. Nettles AgentOwned	Jerry P. Mann Carolina One	4/6/2017	\$251.91	\$1,155,000
5)	Clay Cunningham Carolina One	Wendy Deitsch LifeTree	1/5/2017	\$200.61	\$1,150,000
6)	Shane Spurling Matt O'Neill	Shane Spurling Matt O'Neill	3/14/2017	\$217.48	\$1,060,000
7)	Franne Schwarb & Chari Karinshak Coldwell Banker	Joanne Harwell Coldwell Banker	2/6/2017	\$193.24	\$995,000
8)	Missy Reid Matt O'Neill	Kathy M. Lewis LifeTree	5/25/2017	\$285.24	\$858,000
9)	Clay Cunningham Carolina One	Jeff Cook Jeff Cook	5/18/2017	\$219.38	\$852,500
10) Ryan M. DePoppe & Joe M. Franko Carolina One	Lisa Quick Matt O'Neill	4/7/2017	\$167.33	\$845,000

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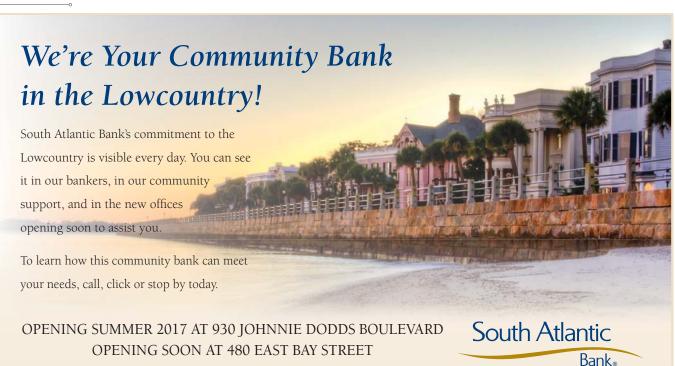
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Clean and Family Friendly

Molly Maid of Greater Charleston

BY KALENE MCCORT

ow that school's out, you may find that your little ones are tracking pluff mud through the house after days of outdoor play. Perhaps they have gotten creative with an art project that proved to be as messy as it was fun. Hosting dinner parties and out-of-town guests? Whatever your plans are for this summer, one thing we all can agree on is the importance of keeping our homes clean, organized and at their absolute best. Whether you need a little extra help with weekly upkeep or want to wow company with a home that is just as inviting as it is tidy, Molly Maid of Greater Charleston is the one you should enlist. With a reputation of delivering amazing results, this company proves to always leave abodes flawless, at a price that won't hurt your wallet.

"Helping a range of people trade house cleaning time for other more interesting or important parts of their lives is really what we're all about," said Jennifer Poole, co-owner of the Mount Pleasant franchise. "Whether it's a working mom being able to spend more time with her family, a retired couple getting another round of golf into their week or doing anything other than housekeeping, that's why we're here."

Trustworthy, respectful and dedicated, Molly Maid's first priority is customer satisfaction.

"There really isn't anything magical about house cleaning, and, in all honesty, the services one company might provide versus another aren't all that different," said Poole. "What is different, however, is the way we go about providing the service. We aim to be as flexible as possible, as communicative as possible, knowing every situation



is unique. We really want to customize what we do to a specific customer's needs, work to meet a schedule that works for them and fits into their financial budget."

Behind the spotless countertops and gleaming tile floors, you'll find a business built on helping others. At Molly Maid's core is an altruistic essence dedicated to helping those who find themselves in potentially dangerous situations. The Ms. Molly Foundation distributes funds to different area shelters and organizations dedicated to aiding in the protection of women throughout the Lowcountry.

"The Ms. Molly Foundation is an incredibly important part of who we are as a company," said Poole. "Domestic violence disproportionately affects women. Ninety-five percent of our employees historically are female, and a huge majority of the customers making a buying decision are also female."

Poole and her team have witnessed firsthand the detrimental effects domestic violence has had on those within their own community.

"We've seen cases over our 12 years in the greater Charleston area where domestic violence directly impacts families of both our employees and customers," said Poole. "The contributions the foundation receives are able to benefit our two most important groups of people – employees and customers."

So much more than a cleaning company, Molly Maid serves the community in ways that go beyond streak-free mirrors and polished tabletops.

"We often hear from customers that they just love coming home after we've cleaned – the smells, the fresh look of the home," said Poole. "There is just something invigorating about knowing someone else spent a couple hours doing all this, allowing clients to focus on other parts of their lives."

Molly Maid is located at 1035 Johnnie Dodds Blvd. in Mount Pleasant. For more information, visit www.mollymaid.com or call 843-216-6130.

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What Wood You Do?

Outside Is In

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

eak is among the most valuable commercial woods in the world. It is extremely strong, exceedingly durable and ages gracefully and beautifully. One of the widest selections of this "king of the woods" is available at Outside Is In, located in the heart of Mount Pleasant.

If you are looking for outdoor furniture that will stand the test of time, your next stop should be Outside Is In and its 6,500-square-foot showroom on Highway 17. The business also features 2,500 square feet of outside display space and offers a wide range of outdoor furniture, including



Outside Is In carries items produced by Gloster, the company that makes what is considered to be the world's finest outdoor furniture.

pieces created from reclaimed wood, synthetic resin and aluminum. You'll find furniture made of various woods, such as mahogany, cumaru, ipe, tigerwood and garapa.

But at Outside Is In, premium A grade teak furniture, imported from Indonesia, is the shining star.

"It's the most stable of the commercially viable woods, and that's important as it helps the joints to hold up better than other wood and allows the furniture to last much longer," said owner Bob Kelliher, who worked in the world

of IT before teak piqued his interest. "If it's good quality teak from the heartwood of a mature teak tree, it doesn't rot, it doesn't splinter and it doesn't attract termites."

He added that people love the color Teak turns as it is exposed to the rays of the sun. He said the silver-gray patina is "the preferred look." He



Owner Bob Kelliher displays a mahagany table offered for sale at Outside Is In.

noted, however, that those who purchase teak can decide for themselves what they want their outdoor furniture to look like.

"If you would rather maintain the original honey-gold brown color, staining is an option," Kelliher pointed out.

Regardless of how you decide your teak furniture will age, you'll have the option to consider a wide range of outdoor items at Outside Is In, including tables, chairs, sofas, benches, lounges, rockers, deck chairs, Adirondack chairs, coffee tables, end tables and bars.

Outside Is In also carries items produced by Gloster, the company that makes what is considered to be the finest outdoor furniture in the world.

"We offer fantastic pricing on world-famous Gloster furniture," Kelliher said. "We have the lowest pricing you'll find anywhere."

And you'll have the advantage of dealing with a business with the experience to help you find the outdoor furniture that fits your needs.

"The quality of our product differentiates us, but so does the fact that we do custom work, which you wouldn't find in a regular furniture store," Kelliher commented. "We're not just a furniture merchandiser or woodworking shop. We're a furniture store that does customization and services for its clients."

"Between what we carry in stock and our custom work, either by our own shop or our manufacturer in Indonesia, we can provide our clients with a solution to their vision, with very affordable pricing," he added.

According to Kelliher, the outdoor furniture business is thriving in the Lowcountry, in part because of the area's magnificent weather. He said local residents are focusing on buying outdoor furniture for their patios, decks, courtyards, porches and even their boats.

That's why, he said, "The Outside Is In."

Outside Is In is located at 1717 North Highway 17 in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, call 843-718-7181.



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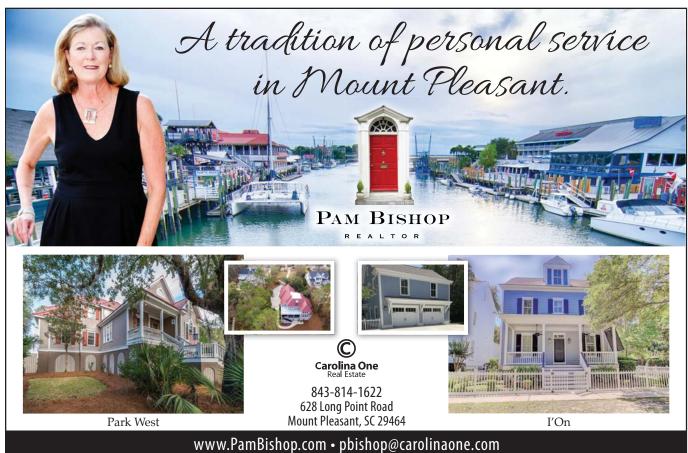
TOP MOST EXPENSIVE TEN HOMES SOLD Jan. 1 - June 1, 2017

l'On Mount Pleasant, SC

THORIES OF SAIL I SAIL				
LISTING AGENT LISTING COMPANY	SELLING AGENT SELLING COMPANY	SELLING DATE	PRICE PER SQUARE FOOT	SELLING PRICE
1) Kendra Boozer JSP	Donna Y. Caldwell Carolina One	5/8/2017	\$378.14	\$2,439,000
Laurie Thornhill Dunes Properties	Helen Geer William Means	3/30/2017	\$342.52	\$1,590,000
Kim MeyerKeller Williams	Kristie Potts Keller Williams	3/3/2017	\$355.93	\$1,575,000
 Michelle McQuillan William Means 	Laurie Thornhill Dunes Properties	4/21/2017	\$349.48	\$1,400,000
5) Sue Hensch Carolina One	Sue Hensch Carolina One	5/19/2017	\$269.65	\$1,400,000
6) Pam Bishop Carolina One	Pam Bishop Carolina One	4/6/2017	\$262.41	\$1,380,000
7) Catha Remington Carolina One	Charlotte Gerber Carolina One	5/1/2017	\$320.32	\$1,350,000
8) Lenora White Daniel Ravenel Sotheby's	Lenora White Daniel Ravenel Sotheby's	2/22/2017	\$311.33	\$1,325,000
9) Michelle McQuillan William Means	Stacy Jennings Smith Spencer	3/22/2017	\$295.25	\$1,300,000
10) Margaret Truluck The Cassina Group	Michelle McQuillan William Means	6/1/2017	\$348.36	\$1,275,000

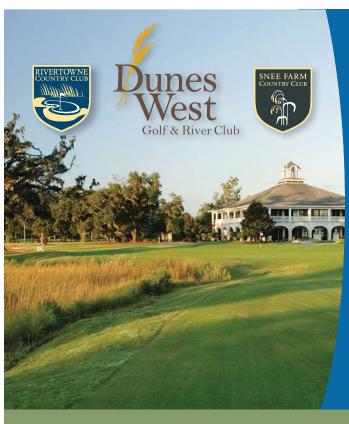
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Start the Year Off Right

Ragamuffin Children's Boutique, Stride Rite and Radical Rags

BY KRYSTA CHAPMAN

ith summer in full swing and the countdown to the new school year on, it's time to start thinking of back-to-school shopping for stylish clothes and the greatest trends in Charleston. For girls and boys who want to hit the ground running, Ragamuffin Children's Boutique, Stride Rite Mount Pleasant and Radical Rags have everything you're looking for to start the year off right.

For fall fashion, it's all about the vintage looks inspired by none other than Prince George and Princess Charlotte of England. The pieces marry old-fashioned silhouettes with timeless stitch work and youthful excitement. Finishing the look are beautiful embroideries and appliqués that have the perfect European flair to them. But the girls aren't done just yet, and, in an adorable twist, we're adding suspenders to skirts this season, for a look that shouts style from the rooftops.

For the boys, it's all about the preppy, West Coast vibes this school year. Colored shorts, awesome tees and brand new sneakers from Stride Rite will have any boy ready to tackle the new semester on time and in style.

And while it may be hard to show your kids how cool you really are as they head into their older years, you won't hear any complaints from them if you show them the latest 'tween fashion trends. This season is full of exciting new prints, gorgeous lace and hints of metallic foils that will excite everyone – including your daughter.

You can't hit the playground barefoot, so check out Stride Rite for the latest trends, like short boots, which are all the rage. If you truly want to set the stage, then go for the metallic accents in dress-up shoes and boots, or try your hand at embellished sneakers for this school year. Not only do they shine and sparkle with fun additions, but you



can get them in silver, gold and rose gold, too.

If owls were the fashionable, go-to animal of last season, you'll be sure to see your fair share of foxes this time around. These adorable, woodland creatures aren't sneaky at all, and their addition to clothing for kids of all ages is absolute perfection. From cute, baby foxes on toddler tees and rompers to dresses, scarves, jewelry and school gear, foxes are in and ready to play.

Finally, just because the little ones aren't off to school just yet doesn't mean they can't look stylish at pickup time. Stop by Ragamuffin Children's Boutique for the adorable smocking styles available for your little ones – a must here in Mount Pleasant.

No matter what your new school year looks like, these children and junior clothing boutiques – which have been serving the community for decades – have exactly what you need. Stop in to shop the latest styles. While fashion is sure to ebb and flow, the hospitality, variety of styles and welcoming smiles at Ragamuffin Children's Boutique, Stride Rite Mount Pleasant and Radical Rags are always available and waiting for you.

Ragamuffin Children's Boutique, Stride Rite Mount Pleasant and Radical Rags are located at 210 Coleman Blvd. in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, visit www.ragamuffinchildrensboutique.com.







Palate-Pleasing Creations

New York Butcher Shoppe

BY KALENE MCCORT

magine being able to get your hands on fine cheeses, a variety of aged wines and some of the most tender, flavorful cuts of beef this side of the Mason-Dixon line. New York Butcher Shoppe offers customers top-of-the-line goods you simply can't find on the shelves of your local grocer. With a knowledgeable staff and a dizzying selection of mouthwatering treats, you are sure to become a regular.

"We want our customers to be able to get everything they need for their meal," said coowner Todd Prochaska, who runs several franchises throughout the Southeast. "They can get appetizers, salads, sides, bread, steak, dessert and a great bottle of wine all in one trip. Our staff is trained to offer great advice on building that perfect summer meal, including advice on cooking the perfect steak and selecting the perfect wine to complement the meal."

Whether you're a novice cook looking to impress diners at your next gathering or a culinary-enthusiast eager to expand your arsenal of flavor, a trip to New York Butcher Shoppe is for you.

"The customer response has been extremely positive," said Prochaska. "There is no other place on Isle of Palms, Sullivan's island or Mount Pleasant where you can get the kind of quality offered at The New York Butcher Shoppe."

Among the favorite summertime top-sellers is Rosé. Light and refreshing, it has quickly become the unofficial beverage of the season with its charming notes of berries and citrus. Another cherished item, ideal for grilling, is legendary pitmaster Rick Fowler's line of BBQ sauces.

Seeking something to savor on your lunch break? Look no further than the Shoppe's sandwich menu, whose items' names pay homage to The Big Apple's various boroughs and landmarks. "The Verrazano" is a healthy portion of lean corned beef and pastrami, sliced thin, topped with Swiss cheese. "Queens" takes the chicken sandwich to a new level with cold cut style chicken and turkey drizzled in a buffalo sauce for just the right amount of heat.

Take home gourmet ravioli, small pillows of cheesefilled perfection, or some grade-A Angus to throw on the grill. From smoked gouda to a silky brie, they have everything you need for a memorable night of wine and cheese. Best of all, in-store experts are always on hand to help you determine just what flavors and notes will pair well together.

"One rewarding thing about this business is hearing a customer tell us that the meal they had from the New York Butcher Shoppe was the best they ever had," said Prochaska. "It happens all the time. Another equally rewarding thing is watching our staff members do a job that they really enjoy doing."

They have another store on Isle of Palms, and, while no



sandwiches are made there, you can still find top-notch goods.

New York Butcher Shoppe's palate-pleasing creations are sure to stun guests. From backyard barbecues to sophisticated luncheons, a trip to this establishment is guaranteed to garner the sort of fare that will leave folks hungry for more.

"While our business is modeled after a New York City street corner market, the service we provide is rich with Southern hospitality," said Prochaska.

To learn more, visit www.nybutcher.net, call 843-856-9675 or 843-885-6314 or drop by 1260 Ben Sawyer Blvd. in Mount Pleasant or 1400 Palm Blvd. in Isle of Palms.

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Don't Let Summer Summer James Turn into Pains ChiropracticUSA

BY ANNE TOOLE

t's summertime, and the living is easy in the Lowcountry. Being so close to the waterways and beaches, you have your choice to live life to the fullest on boats and jet skis or get some much-needed rest and relaxation along the shore. Or, if you plan well, a lot of both. For many people, though, summertime fun takes a toll on the body – even if all you plan to do is relax to the sound of gently-lapping waves.

"We see a significant increase in cases of lower back pain in the summertime," said Dr. Matthew Murrin of ChiropracticUSA. "It can stem from hitting a hard wave if you're on a boat or simply sitting in your beach chair for too long."

Addressing those particular triggers, Dr. Murrin suggested trying to stand and brace for any waves on a boat and getting up every half hour from your beach chair to relieve pressure on your spinal disks. When trailering boats or jet skis, he stressed the importance of lifting with your legs rather than bending at the waist to attach the

trailer to the hitch.

Running on the beach is another common cause for summertime back pain.

"Sand isn't as cushiony as you would think, and running on the beach aggravates degenerative disks or previous disk issues," he said. "Wear supportive sneakers if you want to run on



the beach, but other great summer exercise alternatives are biking the beach with a shock-absorptive seat like a beach cruiser or paddle boarding, which strengthens your core muscles and actually prevents some future injuries."

When you try to do it right and you still hurt, or if you are already experiencing pain, Dr. Murrin and his team can help get you back to having fun in the sun. ChiropracticUSA not only wants to ease your pain but also make you stronger so that you don't reinjure yourself down the road. Dr. Murrin specializes in more than just traditional back pain associated with chiropractic treatment. He is a chiropractor, a certified exercise physiologist and a professional fitness and lifestyle consultant, which is the highest level of personal trainers in North America. Dr. Murrin is professionally recognized for working with elite and professional athletes from NFL players to UFC fighters, Olympic gymnasts and college basketball players.

"Rather than simply alleviating pain, I emphasize optimal health through natural chiropractic care and can recommend simple changes to diet and exercise routines to help patients move toward total wellness," he explained. "We not only want to get you out of pain but help make you stronger so you don't re-injure yourself."

ChiropracticUSA does an extensive consultation and evaluation in order to identify the problem, fix it and strengthen the weak area to minimize future problems. This summer, they are offering a new patient consultation, exam and any necessary X-rays, and one HydroMassage, normally priced at \$365, for a special price of \$37.

To learn more about ChiropracticUSA or to set up an appointment, visit chiropracticusa.com or call 843-881-0046.







Embrace Your Inner OLYMPIAN

Coastal Rowing Studio

BY KALENE MCCORT

ith so many trends, such as barre, spinning and CrossFit, sweeping the workout world, it's hard to know which fitness practice is right for you. Want a workout that will leave you strong and energized? Coastal Rowing Studio delivers a series of options regardless of your athletic ability. The first studio of its kind in the Lowcountry, this



family-run business has caught the attention of residents looking to embrace their greatest selves. Whether you are training for a marathon or simply want to look your best poolside, these professionals have just what you need to up your heart rate and your confidence.

"We wanted to provide something different from what is currently offered in the fitness market," said co-owner Brian Provost, who owns Coastal Rowing Studio with his wife Cheryl. "Indoor rowing is an exercise that most anyone can do. We love the idea of being able to build a community of different ages and fitness levels who encourage and challenge each other to be the best they can be."

A visit to Coastal Rowing Studio is sure to be impactful, as the sessions offered target a variety of areas at once. Unlike a treadmill or stationary bike, a rowing machine achieves a total body workout within a relatively short amount of time. Class participants row together, in unison, as if they are in the same boat gliding down a waterway.

"A workout on the indoor rowing machine is a complete workout," said Cheryl Provost. "In one rowing stroke, you engage your legs, abdominals, back and arms, working 85 percent of the muscles in your body and building your cardio endurance at the same time. It is great for toning, building strength and losing weight."

Cheryl, who comes from a background of nutrition and personal training, finds joy in working one-on-one with clients to achieve amazing results. Even in a class setting, participants receive the attention needed to get them to the next level. From dispensing knowledge on what food is the ideal source to fuel a workout to helping folks increase their stamina, she revels in watching the transformations of clients.

"For me, the most rewarding moment occurs when a client lights up as they realize that indoor rowing is helping them accomplish their health and fitness goals,"

said Cheryl. "Whether it's feeling better, losing weight or lowering your pace on the erg, there is something special and humbling in knowing you have had a part in helping someone else."

In addition to helping clients achieve optimal health, the Provosts flex their altruistic muscle by donating to various charities. "Rowing wars" are held each quarter, with proceeds going to organizations that support those battling illnesses such as cancer, heart disease, autism and PTSD.

"From the moment someone enters our studio, we want them to feel as if they are part of the Coastal Rowing Studio crew," said Cheryl. "We strive to create a Lowcountry community where our clients feel welcome and

know they matter. It is by developing these relationships that we can truly encourage and challenge them."

Burn calories and embrace your inner Olympian at Coastal Rowing Studio. Best of all, you can break a sweat without breaking the bank. Accessible, affordable and engaging, this is sure to be your new favorite spot to tone up.

Coastal Rowing Studio is located at 1233 Ben Sawyer Blvd. To learn more, visit Coastalrowingstudio.com or call 843-972-8137.

Our Mount Pleasant Neighbors

Pe're spending a little time with some of our neighbors to help you get to know them better. Get to know us better by liking us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MountPleasantMagazine. If you want to appear in Facetime or to suggest someone you find interesting, please email the name and contact information (email and/or phone number) to Facetime@MountPleasantMagazine.com.



Bryan Cole

Lives in: Huger, South Carolina.

From: Monroe, Georgia.

Employment: Ye Ole Fashioned Ice Cream &

Sandwich Café.

Favorite reading: John Sandford.

Favorite music: Classic rock.

Activities: Golf, hunting.

Interests: My wife and family.

Likes: Georgia football.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "I didn't create the situation; I'm just

reacting to it."



Misti Cox

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Columbia, South Carolina.

Education: Business Management.

Employment: King and Society Real Estate.

Favorite reading: Nicholas Sparks.

Favorite music: Country.

Activities: Beach-going, fishing.

Interests: Spending time with my girls.

Likes: Social events, concerts.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "Aim high."



Laurel Cockfield

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Columbia, South Carolina.

Education: Realtor school.

Employment: King and Society Real Estate.

Favorite reading: Historical fiction.

Favorite music: All types - hip-hop, classic, country.

Activities: Living, loving, food and exercise.

Interests: Wine and shopping.

Likes: People.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "Live Lowcountry."



John Chitwood

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Charleston, South Carolina.

Education: Graduate of Ringling School of Art and Design.

Employment: Owner of Renaissart Graphic Design.

Favorite reading: Clive Cussler novels.

Favorite music: 70s rock and easy listening.

Activities: Cooking, reading, entertaining, woodworking.

Interests: Movies, comedy and satire, art, toy collecting.

Likes: Being helpful and useful.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "Never try to teach a pig to sing. It

wastes your time and annoys the pig."

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